

AACN's

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Your Inside Track to Federal Policy



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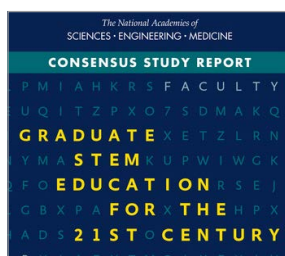
## VA Healthcare Providers Will Practice Telehealth Across State Lines

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) [announced](#) a new federal rule on May 11 authorizing VA physicians, nurses, and other healthcare providers to deliver telehealth services within VA facilities across state lines. The [rule](#) standardizes the delivery of VA health care by ensuring that veterans receive the same level of care regardless of their state or location, particularly for those in rural and underserved areas. The rule will go into effect on June 11, 2018.



## Congress Sets Funding Allocations for Fiscal Year 2019

Last week, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees set funding levels for all 12 appropriations bills for fiscal year (FY) 2019, including the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS-ED) spending bill. The House committee [approved](#) the allocations for LHHS-ED at the FY 2018 level, or \$177.1 billion. In contrast, the Senate committee [voted](#) unanimously to provide a total of \$179.3 billion for FY 2019 allocations, about \$2 billion above the FY 2018 enacted level and the House FY 2019 allocation. AACN applauded the committee leadership for securing increased funding in FY 2018 and has sent letters to appropriators in the [House](#) and the [Senate](#) requesting greater funding to support the nursing workforce and research in FY 2019.



## National Academies Report Analyzes Graduate STEM Education

On May 29, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (National Academies) released a report titled [Graduate STEM Education for the 21st Century](#). The purpose of the study was to analyze the graduate education system and 21st century career needs in order to better align programs and training for prospective careers and to develop evidence-based teaching practices to best meet the needs of students and stakeholders. Read the National Academies public release [here](#).



## AACN Provides Tools for Advocacy at Home

Memorial Day Recess is an opportune time to connect with your Senators and Representatives during their time at home May 28 through June 1. Use AACN's [online resources](#) to assist in your advocacy for [current issues](#) impacting nursing education, practice, and research. Additionally, sending an action alert is great way to make sure your voice is heard. [Ask your legislator](#) to sign onto the Addiction Treatment Access Improvement Act and the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act. To stay informed on AACN's issues, sign up for the [Grassroots Network](#) and follow [@AACNPolicy](#) on Twitter.