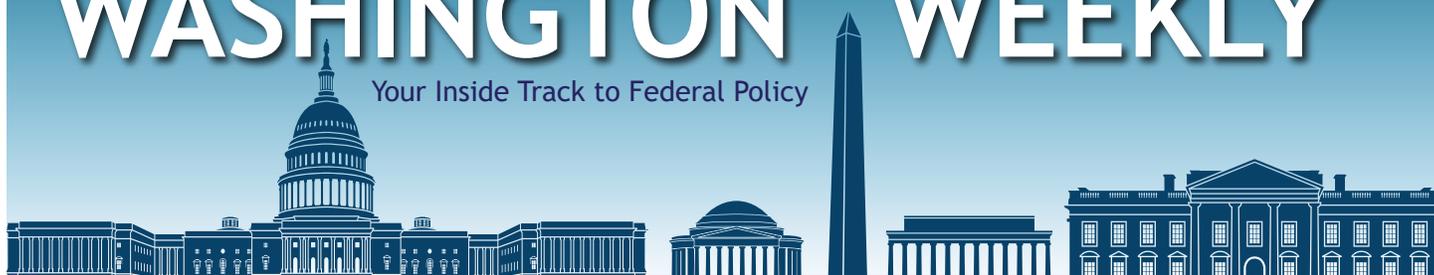


AACN's

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Your Inside Track to Federal Policy



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AACN Provides Comments on Opioid Crisis at HHS Task Force Meeting

AACN provided public comments during the Department of Health and Human Services [Pain Management Best Practices Inter-Agency Task Force](#) meeting held on May 30-31. The Task Force was created to propose updates regarding best practices and issue recommendations that address gaps or inconsistencies for managing chronic and acute pain. AACN's Director of Policy, Dr. Colleen Leners, remarked on the association's commitment to [addressing the opioid crisis](#), as well as the approximately 200 member schools that pledged to educate APRN students on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain. In her remarks, Dr. Leners shared that AACN urges the Task Force to consider and advance all possible solutions to help fight the opioid crisis, and [strongly supports](#) the Addiction Treatment Access Improvement Act, which would make permanent the authorization for NPs and PAs to provide medication-assisted treatment for patients battling addiction. This legislation would also extend the provision to the other three APRN roles. AACN will be submitting written comments for the record.



NINR Explores "Smart Health" in Precision Health Symposium

On July 23, the National Institute of Nursing Research will host [Precision Health: Smart Technologies, Smart Health Symposium](#) focusing on "smart health," or digital health data and smart technology aiming to improve health outcomes. The event will feature a scientific panel that will address issues across the span of health care and quality of life. Although registration is currently full, you can [join the waitlist](#) or watch the [live videocast here](#).



HHS and Department of Education Secretaries Testify

Ahead of the Senate's late June markup of the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS-ED) fiscal year (FY) 2019 budget, the Secretaries of the Department of Education and Health and Human Services (HHS) are testifying before Congress this week. On June 5, Secretary Betsy DeVos [answered questions](#) from the Senate LHHS-ED Subcommittee regarding the [President's FY 2019 Budget Request](#). While Congress has final say on federal spending, the President's budget reflects the Administration's priorities, which seeks to reduce the Education Department's funding. It also would reform the income-driven repayment system, eliminate loan forgiveness for borrowers in public-service jobs, and eliminate subsidized student loans. Watch the recorded hearing [here](#).

HHS Secretary Alex Azar will testify today on the agency's policies and priorities before the Education and Workforce Committee. The Secretary has committed HHS to working on [four health-related priorities](#): the opioid crisis, health insurance reform, rising drug prices, and value-based care. [Watch the hearing here](#).