Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act Advances Out of House Sub委员会

Today, Wednesday June 27, the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health completed a mark-up of the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act (H.R. 959). This legislation reauthorizes Title VIII through Fiscal Year 2023 and makes three technical changes to current statute. These changes include recognizing all four APRN roles, including clinical nurse specialists, and defining Nurse-Managed Health Clinics. Read more about H.R. 959 and AACN’s active engagement here under the Workforce tab. H.R. 959 is next expected to be taken up in full committee. Read AACN’s full statement here, which includes statements from the House Nursing Caucus co-chairs, Representatives David Joyce (R-OH) and Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI).

House-Passed Bill Includes APRNs in the Solution to Combat the Opioid Crisis

On June 22, the House passed H.R. 6, the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment (SUPPORT) for Patients and Communities Act, by a vote of 396-14. H.R. 6 contained dozens of bipartisan provisions, including Section 303, which would permanently authorize nurse practitioners and physician assistants to provide lifesaving medicated-assisted treatments (MATs) and authorize clinical nurse specialists, certified registered nurse anesthetists, and certified nurse-midwives as qualified prescribers for five years.

Section 303 is an amended version of Representatives Paul Tonko (D-NY) and Ben Ray Luján’s (D-NM) bill, the Addiction Treatment Access Improvement Act (H.R. 3692), which AACN has actively supported. This Section represents a bipartisan commitment by Congress to include Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) in the fight against the opioid epidemic. Yet, Section 303 was almost stripped from the final bill. Of the seven amendments offered during House debate, only one, the amendment to eliminate Section 303 from the final bill, was not adopted. AACN grassroots members were essential in ensuring Section 303 remained included in the legislation now headed to the Senate for further consideration.

Through AACN’s grassroots activity, more than 540 stakeholder messages were sent to Capitol Hill urging both Representatives and Senators to support APRNs in their ability to prescribe MATs. These messages resonated with Members and safeguarded nursing’s role in providing these life-saving treatments for those suffering from opioid addiction. Additionally, AACN joined 45 national nursing organizations in a Nursing Community Coalition letter thanking the Committees of jurisdiction for their work and support of this provision.

AACN congratulates and applauds Chairman Walden (R-OR), Chairman Brady (R-TX), Ranking Member Pallone (D-NJ), Ranking Member Neal (D-MA), Congressman Tonko (D-NY), and Congressman Luján (D-NM) for their work on this vital legislation. See AACN’s joint statement with the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, the American College of Nurse-Midwives, and the American Nurses Association on H.R. 6 here.

Read more on AACN’s response to the opioid epidemic here.