The U.S. Senate confirmed Lieutenant General Dorothy A. Hogg as the Surgeon General of the Air Force, effective June 4. Lt. Gen. Hogg served in the Air Force for over three decades, spending a majority of her military career as a nurse practitioner and nurse executive. In her previous positions, as Deputy Surgeon General and Chief of the Air Force Nurse Corps, she directed operations of the Air Force Medical Service and commanded, recruited, and educated over 18,000 active duty personnel. AACN congratulates Lt. Gen. Hogg on her outstanding contributions to military health care and leadership.

Momentum is Building: Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2017 Advances out of Committee
On July 12, the House Energy and Commerce Committee advanced the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2017 (H.R. 959) out of full Committee by a voice vote. With 105 cosponsors, the bipartisan support for H.R. 959 continues to grow.

Thank you to AACN membership as you have been instrumental in voicing support for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act and illustrating the critical contribution these programs provide to nursing faculty and students, and to the broader health care of our nation. In fact, the 450 messages AACN members sent to over 170 different Congressional offices have helped propel this bill forward. We need your continued support as H.R. 959 heads to the House floor for a vote and as the Senate continues to consider their own version (S. 1109) of this critical piece of legislation. Act today by sending an email to your Member of Congress asking them to support and cosponsor the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act (H.R. 959/S. 1109).

House Appropriations Committee Approves FY19 Labor-HHS-Education Spending Bill
On July 11, the House Appropriations Committee reported out the fiscal year (FY) 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS-ED) spending bill by a vote of 30-22. The House’s FY19 bill, compared to the final FY18 omnibus spending bill, provides $241.472 for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce and Development programs, an $8 million reduction, and $159.920 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR), a $1.887 million increase. The reduction in Title VIII funding was taken entirely from the Advanced Nursing Education Programs. The increase in NINR funding reflects the House’s proposal of a $1.25 billion overall increase for the National Institutes of Health. For a full outline of FY19 spending priorities that AACN is tracking, see our FY19 Funding Chart. A final vote on the House FY19 LHHS-ED spending bill is expected in the coming weeks. For more information on the Senate process, see last week’s edition of Washington Weekly.