



## Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act Passes House

AACN commended the House of Representatives for passing the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act (H.R. 959) by a voice vote on July 23. This legislation provides critical support to nursing students, faculty, and programs to bolster the nursing workforce and increase access to care across the nation. "Without a robust workforce, our country cannot realize the goals of increasing access, reducing cost, and improving quality," said Board Chair Dr. Ann Cary in [AACN's press release](#).

Thank you to AACN's Grassroots Network, who collectively sent messages to over 100 Representatives, which helped to ensure House passage of this legislation which is foundational to AACN's member schools. Please continue this momentum by [sending a message to your Senators](#) urging that their version ([S. 1109](#)) is passed in the Senate.



## Robert Wilkie Confirmed as Secretary of Veterans Affairs

On July 23, in an 86-9 vote, the U.S. Senate confirmed [Robert Wilkie](#) as the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Mr. Wilkie previously served as the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness at the Department of Defense, where he advised the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense for Total Force Management on issues including health and quality of life for military personnel and their families. AACN congratulates Mr. Wilkie on his confirmation and will continue to work with the Department of Veterans Affairs on critical priorities.



## Nursing Expert Among NAM's Selected Emerging Leaders

Among the National Academy of Medicine's (NAM) [2018-2019 Emerging Leaders in Health and Medicine](#), Christopher Friese, PhD, RN, ANOCN, FAAN, was selected for the prestigious opportunity. Dr. Friese is a professor of nursing and Director of the Center for Improving Patient and Population Health at the University of Michigan. The Emerging Leaders represent a wide range of health-related fields selected by NAM to participate in collaborative and innovative activities during a three-year term throughout the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

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