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Your Inside Track to Federal Policy

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75 Days Until Midterm Elections: Sign up for Nursing Voices Nursing Votes

AACN is counting down to the 2018 Midterm Elections by encouraging nurses and nursing students to engage in the election process and join our initiative, [Nursing Voices Nursing Votes](#). As the new school year commences, remind your fellow faculty members and students to register to vote, participate in the process, follow [@AACNPolicy](#) for election updates, and [sign up](#) using AACN's online form to highlight your engagement during this election cycle.



Senate Takes Up LHHS-ED Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Spending Bill

For the first time in over a decade, the Senate's Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS-ED) appropriation bill is on the Senate Floor. The FY 2019 LHHS-ED appropriation bill is part of a "minibus" spending package that also includes [Defense spending](#). These bills combined account for roughly 60% of all discretionary spending.

The [Senate's LHHS-ED appropriation bill](#) provides level [funding](#), or \$249 million, for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs and \$163 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research (a 3.9% increase from FY 2018 funding).

As Senators work to finalize and pass this "minibus," they have been filing amendments on issues and changes they would like to see in the spending package. One amendment impacting AACN members was offered by Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR) and requests an additional \$17 million for Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs. Sen. Merkley was joined by Sens. Duckworth, Booker, Menendez, Kaine, and Van Hollen in supporting this amendment. While filed, this amendment is not expected to receive a vote; rather, it is symbolic of our Senate champions' commitment to the Title VIII programs.



100 Days of Action on American Patients First Blueprint

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a report on [actions taken to lower drug prices](#) within the first 100 days since the Administration unveiled its American Patients First Blueprint on May 11. The HHS report reviews actions on the four strategies outlined in the blueprint—increased competition, better negotiation, incentives for lower list prices, and reducing out-of-pocket costs—and their impact on the pharmaceutical marketplace. [Read the full report.](#)

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