

AACN's

# WASHINGTON WEEKLY

Your Inside Track to Federal Policy

January 16, 2019



## Welcome Your Senators and Representative to the 116th Congress

As the 116th Congress commences, AACN has hand-delivered welcome letters to all newly elected and returning Members of Congress. We encourage you to welcome your federal elected officials as well and share AACN's top legislative priorities, including: reauthorization of Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs, continued support for the National Institutes of Health and the National Institute of Nursing Research, and reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. **To send a welcome letter to your Representative and Senators, [click here](#).**



## Spots Filling Quickly for 2019 Student Policy Summit

As of this week, only 62 seats remain for [AACN's 2019 Student Policy Summit](#). **Register today** to give your students the opportunity to participate in this three-day conference held in Washington, DC, March 24-26. AACN member deans are responsible for registering students and there is a two-student limit per school. We look forward to seeing your students at this year's summit.

## Upcoming Webinars for 2019 Student Policy Summit participants

These webinars are presented especially for attendees of AACN's 2019 Student Policy Summit but are open to everyone at AACN member schools:

- [A Civics Refresher for Student Policy Summit Attendees, February 7, at 1:00 pm EST](#)
- [Preparing for a Successful Student Policy Summit, March 12, at 3:00 pm EST](#)



## New Guidance Issued on Financial Aid Amid IRS System Outage

On January 9, the Department of Education [announced](#) a new guidance to ease requirements for Free Applications for Federal Student Aid/Institutional Student Information Record (FAFSA/ISIR) applicants who previously needed to obtain their income information directly from the IRS. This change allows signed copies of tax returns (rather than a tax transcript) as acceptable documentation in verifying information. This recommendation comes after some students were unable to access financial aid due to the recent [IRS "Get Transcript" system outage](#). The guidance also allows applicants to sign a statement certifying they are not required to file income taxes if they are unable to obtain documentation from the IRS or other tax authorities. The guidance precedes the Trump Administration's first day of negotiations over its [proposed plan](#) to overhaul many higher education regulations.