



# AACN's Guide to Virtual Advocacy

## Amplifying the Voice of Academic Nursing

AUGUST 2021 VIRTUAL EDITION

As Congress looks toward returning to their states and districts during August recess, it is increasingly important your federal policymakers hear from you. Virtually connect with your legislators to discuss important topics currently impacting your community and our nation.

### What is August Recess?

Traditionally, when Congress is "in session," legislators are working in our nation's capital, Washington D.C. When Congress is "in recess," legislators are typically working in their home states and districts connecting with their constituents and gaining critical insight on the issues impacting their day-to-day life. As we continue to combat this public health challenge, August recess still provides an opportunity to connect with your Members of Congress, albeit in a digital capacity.

### Connecting with Federal Policymakers

Contact your Congressional office to schedule a virtual appointment with the Member of Congress or their staff.

### Who are Your Federal Legislators?

 [Find your Representative](#)  
[Find your Senators](#)

 [View AACN's Advocacy and Policy Efforts](#)

### Social Media Engagement

#### Engage with Members of Congress by:

- + Following your federal legislators on their official Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts for updates on virtual events and more.
- + Interacting with your federal legislator's posts and tweets by commenting, liking, and retweeting.
- + Visit your federal legislator's official website where you can sign up for newsletters, see their position on important topics, and more.

### Become an AACN Advocate

#### As an AACN Advocate, you will:

- + Receive [Action Alerts](#) requesting you to contact Congress on timely issues.
- + Be updated through [Washington Weekly](#), AACN's federal policy and advocacy newsletter.
- + Gain access to breaking news regarding legislative and regulatory activities relevant to academic nursing.
- + Together, AACN advocates have helped pass the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Reauthorization and included \$200 million in supplemental funding for the Nurse Corps in the American Rescue Plan Act.



## Three Virtual Ways to Connect with your Member of Congress

### View Virtual Events and Livestreams

Many Members of Congress are taking part in virtual events and livestreams to discuss their take on important topics. These can be found on their official website and social media accounts.

### Request a Site Visit

Submit a request to your Member of Congress asking for a virtual or a potential in-person tour of your program. This is a great opportunity for federal legislators to see firsthand how academic nursing is preparing our future nursing workforce to combat current and future health challenges.

### Attend a Virtual or Telephone Town Hall

Attending virtual town hall meetings gives you an opportunity to ask questions and receive updates on important topics affecting your state or district. These can be found by looking at your federal legislator's website.

### Resources to Effective Advocacy

[AACN's State Sheets](#)

[How Does a Bill Become a Law?](#)

[AACN's National Snapshot](#)

[What is the Current Status of a Bill?](#)

[A Capitol Hill Dictionary](#)

### Take Action Today

[Click here](#) to advocate for important issues impacting academic nursing and follow [@AACNPolicy](#) on Twitter.

### Questions?

Contact AACN's Director of Government Affairs,  
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