



American Association
of Colleges of Nursing
The Voice of Academic Nursing



2023-2024 Federal Policy Agenda

Priorities For Academic Nursing

ABOUT AACN



875+

Nursing schools in all 50 states, DC, and Puerto Rico



530,000+

Nursing students in baccalaureate and graduate programs



54,000+

Nursing faculty

Since 1969, AACN has fostered collaborative relationships with nursing, interprofessional, healthcare, and higher education communities, as well as Congress and the Administration. Through these partnerships, AACN has helped advance policies that establish the critical role of nurses in delivering quality, cost-effective, team-based health care. AACN's member schools are preparing nursing students to be leaders and change agents necessary for healthcare transformation.

AACN AT A GLANCE

As the collective voice for academic nursing, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) serves as the catalyst for excellence and innovation in nursing education, research, and practice

AACN stands ready to work with the 118th Congress and the Administration to achieve the following priorities essential to improving health and health care in our nation:

- **Advance Higher Education**
- **Pursue Transformative Research**
- **Develop a Robust Workforce**
- **Redefine Models of Care**



AACN'S FEDERAL POLICY PRIORITIES

PURSUE TRANSFORMATIVE RESEARCH

- **SUSTAINABLE:** Expand the scientific workforce through sustained and increased funding for biomedical and behavioral research as well as training to yield an immeasurable return on investment.
- **INCLUSIVE:** Encourage research that investigates methods to improve public health and reduce health disparities.
- **INNOVATIVE:** Support both health care and health services research at the federal level to ensure that the systems that surround our care are strong— ultimately, impacting wellness.

REDEFINE MODELS OF CARE

- **SUSTAINABLE:** Advance sustainable models of care that lead to a healthier nation.
- **INCLUSIVE:** Invest in networks of community-based centers and in the public health infrastructure essential to ensuring attainable and equitable population-based care outside hospital walls.
- **INNOVATIVE:** Dedicate federal resources to health systems and providers to ensure that delivery structures adapt to emerging technological advances, and ultimately, to advance accessible and affordable health care.

ADVANCE HIGHER EDUCATION

- **SUSTAINABLE:** Stabilize the immense financial impact that academic institutions and students face so they can continue to have a positive return on investment for a baccalaureate or graduate degree.
- **INCLUSIVE:** Remove barriers to higher education to ensure accessibility for students from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups and economically diverse backgrounds.
- **INNOVATIVE:** Support rigorous accreditation that ensures high-quality and effective educational programs without creating unnecessary regulatory burden to allow students, academic institutions, and communities to flourish.

DEVELOP A ROBUST WORKFORCE

- **SUSTAINABLE:** Enhance federal investment in partnerships between the academic institution, faculty, and practice environments for a sustainable nursing workforce, while increasing support for faculty careers.
- **INCLUSIVE:** Invest in programs that support all students' career paths and recruit individuals from diverse backgrounds to the nursing profession.
- **INNOVATIVE:** Implement nursing workforce policies and funding streams that reflect emerging trends focused on growth and quality in the system.



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