

AACN's

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Your Inside Track to Federal Policy



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## Fourth Stopgap Funding Bill Possible for FY 2018

Late last night, House Republican leaders unveiled [H.J. Res. 125](#) to extend federal funding for the government through February 16. If passed, this will be the fourth short-term continuing resolution (CR) bill since September. The current CR expires this Friday, January 19. Included in the new measure is a long-term solution for the [Children's Health Insurance Program \(CHIP\)](#), reauthorizing the program's funding through 2023. Federal funding for CHIP, which covers nine million low income children nationwide, expired last year and the program was granted a temporary extension until March 31.

H.J. Res. 125 does not include language to address individuals registered under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status. The negotiations intensify the pressure on Congress as they attempt to finalize a Fiscal Year 2018 budget for defense and non-defense discretionary spending. The House Rules Committee is taking up the bill today, January 17 before a possible Thursday vote. A summary of the legislation can be found [here](#).

## Congress Faces Critical Decision on DACA

The House and the Senate are working to reach a bipartisan agreement on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), as the program is set to expire on March 5 per [President Trump's announcement](#) in September 2017. Rescinding DACA, a federal program created in 2012, will affect approximately 800,000 young individuals. Many of these individuals are enrolled in institutions of higher education, enlisted in our military, and are contributing to the economy.

The time-sensitive issue points to a broader matter of immigration reform, a major priority for the current Administration. Although Democrats face pressure to withhold votes on the House's most current continuing resolution introduced on January 16 (which does not address DACA), it is uncertain whether they would risk a government shutdown. AACN is actively monitoring this issue and signed on to a [letter](#) with our higher education colleagues urging a permanent solution.

