

AACN's

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AACN Urges Congressional Commitment to Students in Tax Reform

The full Senate is expected to hold a vote-a-rama on its version of the [Tax Cuts and Jobs Act \(H.R.1\)](#) later this week following its [advancement](#) through the Budget Committee on November 28. (The House [passed](#) its version of H.R. 1 tax bill on November 16.) In a vote-a-rama, each amendment is considered and voted on. The majority party's success in passing tax reform may hinge on reconciliation—a legislative procedure used by Congress to bring federal spending and revenue within limits set by a budget resolution and requires a simple majority to pass.

According to the [Joint Committee on Taxation](#), the House version of H.R. 1 would increase the cost of higher education by \$71 billion dollars, which would fall onto the students' shoulders. However, the version of the bill currently under consideration in the Senate does not include these harmful provisions. AACN [sent a letter](#) to all members of the Senate commending the chamber "for recognizing the value of tax credits that help ensure higher education remains affordable and accessible for millions of individuals." AACN asks that the Senate continues to remain firm in protecting key tax credits for students and faculty in any floor debate or conference.



Congressional Briefing Highlights Health Professions and Nursing Education Funding

On November 28, the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC), of which AACN is a member, hosted a briefing on Capitol Hill titled, "How HRSA Health Workforce Programs Address Today's Public Health Concerns." The briefing featured a panel of speakers representing the health professions community who shared how the Title VII Health Professions and Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs are strengthening the workforce pipeline and access to high-quality care. Juanita "Terrie" Garcia, MEd, RN, Project Coordinator of [Project BEYOND-2](#) at the Marquette University College of Nursing, offered a compelling case to Congressional staff on how the college of nursing has utilized their Title VIII Nursing Workforce Diversity grant to enroll, retain, and graduate Bachelor of Science in Nursing students from disadvantaged and underrepresented backgrounds, thereby improving nursing workforce diversity and addressing social determinants of health since 2007. This year alone, 69 students are part of Project BEYOND-2.



2018 Student Policy Summit Registration: Halfway Full!

Registration for the 2018 AACN Student Policy Summit (March 25-27) is still available, but filling quickly! The Summit is a wonderful opportunity for students interested in policy and advocacy to attend a three-day conference held in Washington, D.C. Attendees learn from policy experts in nursing and healthcare about nursing's role in professional advocacy, and attend Capitol Hill visits with AACN deans. For more information, visit the [Summit's website](#). Please note: registration is limited to 200 slots!