

ACADEMY INSIDER

TRANSFORMING HEALTH POLICY STARTS
BY KEEPING CONNECTED



October 25, 2023



October 18: The Academy, along with other APRN organizations, sent a letter to the Departments of Health and Human Services, Labor, and Treasury, in response to a request for information **regarding the promulgation of a regulation on provider nondiscrimination (Section 2706(a) of the Public Health Service Act)**. [Read more.](#)

October 16: The Academy, along with 57 members of the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC), joined a letter to Representatives Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA-01), Brian Higgins (D-NY-26), Jen Kiggans (R-VA-02), and Mike Thompson (D-CA-04), thanking them for **introducing the bipartisan Nurse Corps Tax Parity Act of 2023 (H.R.5080)**. [Read more.](#)

October 13: The Academy joined an amicus brief along with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and other health care organizations in **support of a challenge to the decision by the Florida Medical Board to restrict access to gender-affirming care for adolescents**. [Read more.](#)

October 10: The Academy, along with 61 members of the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC), joined a letter thanking Senate Nursing Caucus Co-Chair, Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR), and Senator Cynthia Lummis (R-WY), for introducing the **Improving Care and Access to Nurses (I CAN) Act (S.2418)**. [Read more.](#)

September 26: The Academy joined an amicus brief along with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and other health care organizations challenging the state of Indiana's legislation **limiting access to gender-affirming care to those under the age of 18**. [Read more.](#)

September 18: The Academy, along with 47 members of the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC), joined a statement for the record for the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health hearing, "VA's Federal Supremacy Initiative: Putting Veterans First?" The statement urged **support for removing barriers to practice and allowing Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) to practice to the full extent of their education and abilities within the VA**. [Read more.](#)



AMERICAN ACADEMY
of NURSING

November 14 | 12:00-1:30 PM ET
2023-2024 Policy Dialogue Series

**Nursing's Responsibility to Our Patients
and Our Profession:
Countering the Attacks on Transgender
and Gender-Diverse Health**

Hosted by the LGBTQ Health Expert Panel



Hosted by the Academy's [LGBTQ Health Expert Panel](#), this policy dialogue will identify how recent policies are attacking transgender and gender-diverse people's health, harming patients and communities, and affecting health care providers' ability to safely deliver care. This dialogue will examine the sources of these attacks, the impact on health equity, and nurses' and professional organizations' responsibility to influence policy that will mitigate these harms.

Register



POLICY SPOTLIGHT

According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), over 61 million people in the United States live with a disability, constituting the largest diversity group in the country. Despite decades of advocacy and struggle, people with disabilities continue to experience significant gaps in health and well-being, educational attainment, employment, and wealth compared to people without disabilities. The Academy's 2023 Health Policy Conference featured a session, "A Focus on People with Disabilities: Championing Change for Policy Action" to delve deeper into the efforts currently in place to ensure healthy, fulfilling lives for individuals with disabilities. However, disability impacts all of us and anyone can develop certain disabilities throughout their lifetime. Many adults live with disabilities that are the result of a workplace-related injury or other traumatic experience. For example, the Academy has been on the record urging Congress to improve the health care system and access to care for our nation's federal employees including those with a disability. Federal employees can select a nurse practitioner (NP) as their health care provider under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP), and the majority of states authorize NPs to provide the diagnosis and treatment for a workplace-related injury. However, the Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA) requires that only a physician can make the diagnosis, certify the injury and extent of the disability, and oversee the patient's treatment and care. This barrier places an additional burden on the over two million federal employees, 40,037 of whom are living with a targeted disability according to the [U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission](#), which deprives them of receiving health care from their provider of choice, as well as hindering timely access to care and continuity of care. The Academy remains ready to support bold legislation through our policy work as well as the work through our partnerships with the [advanced practice registered nurses \(APRN\) workgroup](#) and [the Nursing Community Coalition \(NCC\)](#). This includes retiring outdated barriers in the Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA) that limit the ability of NPs to provide care and treatment for injured or ill federal employees such as the Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act ([S.131/H.R. 618](#)). The passage of [S.131/H.R. 618](#) would update the federal workers' compensation program and authorize NPs to certify disabilities and oversee treatment for injured or ill federal employees under FECA, improve access to health care for injured or ill federal employees, particularly in rural and underserved communities, and better align the federal workers' compensation program with the majority of states and FEHBP.



FELLOW OPPORTUNITIES

- The [RWJF Health Policy Fellows Program](#) is a non-partisan fellowship that offers health professionals the opportunity to participate in the policy process at the federal level and gain the leadership skills and experience needed to improve and advance health equity, health care, and health policy. The 2024-25 class will expand to eight fellows to ensure that the cohort captures the full breadth of professional expertise impacting health and healthcare. Applicants should be subject matter experts in a health-related discipline, including, but not limited to: medicine; nursing; public health; law, dentistry; economics, and other social sciences (especially when related to factors that influence population health, such as housing, transportation, nutrition, wealth, employment, education, and environmental and community conditions); health services and social work/behavioral health; and other health professions.
 - [Call for Applications](#) will remain open until 3 p.m. ET on November 1st, 2023. [Learn more here.](#)
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The National Academy of Medicine (NAM)

- [Challenges in the Provision of Lifesaving Care for Pregnant Patients Following the Overturn of Roe v. Wade](#)
- [A Population Health Workforce to Meet 21st Century Challenges and Opportunities](#)

John Hopkins School of Nursing

- November 1: [Launch of the Institute for Policy Solutions](#) - The institute will serve as a resource for convening health policy leadership and building policy and research capacity for global health leaders/scientists.
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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- [CDC recommends new vaccine to help protect babies against severe respiratory syncytial virus \(RSV\) illness after birth](#)

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

- [HHS Office for Civil Rights Issues Resources for Health Care Providers and Patients to Help Educate Patients about Telehealth and the Privacy and Security of Protected Health Information](#)
- [Statement from Secretary Becerra and Deputy Secretary Palm on World Mental Health Awareness Day 2023](#)
- [HHS Announces Proposed Regulation to Strengthen Services and Protections for Unaccompanied Children in Its Care](#)
- [HHS Requests Public Input on Coverage of Over-the-Counter Preventive Services, Including Contraception, Tobacco Cessation, and Breastfeeding Supplies](#)

- [HHS Takes Action to Provide 12 Months of Mandatory Continuous Coverage for Children in Medicaid and CHIP](#)
- [HHS Launches Climate and Health Outlook Portal to Identify Counties at Risk of Climate-Related Hazards](#)
- [HHS Office for Civil Rights Issues Bulletin on Countering Antisemitism and on Protecting Patients and Recipients of Human Services from Discrimination Based on Shared Ancestry or Ethnic Characteristics](#)
- [Coverage for Half a Million Children and Families Will Be Reinstated Thanks to HHS' Swift Action](#)
- [HHS Launches Environmental Justice Community Innovator Challenge](#)

National Institutes on Health (NIH)

- [NIH revises grant review process to improve focus on scientific merit, reduce reputational bias](#)
- [Telehealth supports retention in treatment for opioid use disorder](#)
- [Study reveals how young children's immune systems tame SARS-CoV-2](#)
- [Combined, high maternal stress and prenatal COVID-19 infection may affect attention span in infants](#)
- [NIH designates people with disabilities as a population with health disparities](#)
- [Clinical trial to test immune modulation strategy for hospitalized covid-19 patients begins](#)
- [Clinical trial of HIV vaccine begins in United States and South Africa](#)
- [Higher buprenorphine doses associated with improved retention in treatment for opioid use disorder](#)
- [NIH clinical trial of universal flu vaccine candidate begins](#)



Based on previous positions taken by the Academy, the following scan is meant for informational purposes and does not directly translate to Academy endorsement. Links provided allow you to watch the recordings and read witness testimony.

House Committee on Education & the Workforce

- September 27: [Examining the Policies and Priorities of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#)

House Committee on Energy & Commerce

- October 19: [Health Legislative Hearing: "What's The Prognosis?: Examining Medicare Proposals To Improve Patient Access To Care & Minimize Red Tape For Doctors"](#)

Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs

- October 25: [VA Accountability and Transparency: A Cornerstone of Quality Care and Benefits for Veterans](#)

Democratic National Committee (DNC)

- [DNC Adopts Resolution Acknowledging Noise as a Public Health Issue Referencing the Academy's Position Statement: Harmful effects of environmental noise exposures](#)

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