June 12: The Academy has joined the American Nurses Association, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and Physicians for Reproductive Health in filing an amici curiae brief in a case, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania et al v. Donald J. Trump, et al, questioning the ability of employers to claim religious or moral exemptions to the Affordable Care Act's contraception mandate.

June 5: The Academy joined the Nursing Community Coalition in sending a letter thanking Senators Jeff Merkley (D-OR) and Richard Burr (R-NC) for introducing S. 1399, the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2019.

June 3: The Academy signed on to the Oral Contraceptives (OCs) Over-the-Counter (OTC) Working Group's Statement of Purpose. The OCOTC is a coalition of reproductive health, rights, and justice organizations, nonprofit research and advocacy groups, university-based researchers, and prominent clinicians who share a commitment to providing all women of reproductive age easier access to safe, effective, acceptable, and affordable contraceptives. Read the statement here.

May 30: The Academy joined 59 members of the Nursing Community Coalition in submitting testimony to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. The testimony included the coalition's funding requests of $266 million for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs and $173 million for the National Institute for Nursing Research for Fiscal Year 2020. Read the testimony here.
National Academy of Medicine (NAM)

- Future of Nursing 2020-2030 Town Hall Meeting: Chicago
  - On June 7, Academy President Karen Cox, Secretary Mary Foley, and Board Member Linda Scott attended the Chicago Town Hall on Education, Research, and Practice.
  - Future meetings will be held in Philadelphia on July 24 and Seattle on August 7.

National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)

- June 27: Symptom Science Center: A Resource for Precision Health
  - NINR's Division of Intramural Research will host a scientific symposium to mark the launch of the NINR-led Symptom Science Center, a trans-NIH resource for the scientific community. The symposium will also include panels on cancer-related symptoms, patient-reported outcomes and symptom science at the NIH Clinical Center, as well as symptom clusters in concussions.

Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)

- PCORI has put together a searchable list of publications on engagement in health research through their "Engagement in Health Research Literature Explorer." Due to the lack of standardized search terms or language for describing what engagement means in this context, this tool will assist researchers looking to find literature on this topic.

Off the President's Desk

- June 12: Meeting on Opioids
  - The President and First Lady met with Secretary of the Department of Labor, Alexander Acosta, Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, Jim Carroll, Assistant Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, Dr. Brett Giroir, and others to discuss the government's response to the opioid epidemic. Read the transcript here.

Around the Administration
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

- **Webinar: Measuring Quality to Improve Quality: Strengths and Challenges of Clinical Quality Measurement** (June 25 and June 27, both at 2:00-3:00 pm ET)
  - Registration is open for these webinars which will provide an overview of key concepts that go into CMS's quality measures. The webinars will also review current CMS quality measures and explain how they are used.

- **New Resource: Participating in the Quality Payment Program (QPP) in 2019 Infographic**
  - This infographic describes how to check your QPP participation status; basic requirements for participating in the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS), Advanced Alternative Payment Models (APMs), and MIPs APMs; as well as key dates for 2019 participation.

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

- June 5: HHS Secretary Alex Azar released a statement on HHS's commitment to promoting the safety and effectiveness of vaccines as the number of measles cases nationwide surpasses 1,000.

Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA)

- **Funding Opportunities: Maternal Health Innovation (MHI) Program (due July 15)**
  - HRSA plans to invest approximately $18 million through the State MHI Program to address disparities and improve maternal health, including preventing and reducing maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity. HRSA also plans to invest approximately $2.5 million to support the State MHI award recipients through the Supporting MHI Program, which will provide capacity building assistance and establish a resource center. Read the press release here.

Pain Management Best Practices Inter-Agency Task Force (Task Force)

- May 30: The Task Force released its final report on acute and chronic pain management best practices. The report calls for a balanced, individualized, patient-centered approach to pain management. Notably the report reflects requests made by the Academy in comments submitted to the Task Force, such as the explicit inclusion of nurses and nurse practitioners as clinicians specializing in pain care.

From the Federal Register

Final Rules

- **Office for Civil Rights (OCR), HHS: Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care; Delegations of Authority**
  - This final rule revises existing regulations to allow vigorous enforcement of Federal conscience laws. This rule would protect health care providers receiving federal funding against discrimination based on their refusal to participate, assist, refer for, or otherwise be complicit in procedures that conflict with their religious beliefs or moral convictions, such as abortion, sterilization, or assisted suicide.

- **CMS, HHS: Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)**
  - This final rule updates the requirements for PACE under the Medicare and Medicaid programs. The changes addressed in the rule will provide greater operational flexibility, remove redundancies and outdated information, and codify existing practice.
CMS, HHS: Modernizing Part D and Medicare Advantage to Lower Drug Prices and Reduce Out-of-Pocket Expenses

- This final rule amends the Medicare Advantage program (Part C) regulations and Prescription Drug Benefit program (Part D) regulations to support health and drug plans' negotiation for lower drug prices and reduce out-of-pocket costs for Part C and D enrollees.

Proposed Rules

- CMS, OCR, HHS: Nondiscrimination in Health and Health Education Programs or Activities
  - This proposed rule would revise Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. A 2016 rule on Section 1557 defined discrimination on the basis of sex to include the "basis of pregnancy, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or recovery therefrom childbirth or related medical conditions, sex stereotyping, and gender identity." This rule would again revise Section 1557 and eliminate the definitions section.

Congressional Hearings

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 Education & Labor

- June 11: Markup: H.R. 1309: Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act

House Energy & Commerce

- June 4: Investing in America's Healthcare
- June 12: No More Surprises: Protecting Patients from Surprise Medical Bills
- June 19: Protecting Title X and Safeguarding Family Planning Care
- June 20: Strengthening Health Care in the U.S. Territories for Today and Into the Future

House Judiciary

- June 4: Threats to Reproductive Rights in America

House Veterans Affairs

- June 20: Ensuring Access to Disability Benefits for Veteran Survivors of Military Sexual Trauma

House Ways & Means
May 15: The Role of Environmental Sustainability in the Economy and Population Health
May 16: Overcoming Racial Disparities and Social Determinants in the Maternal Mortality Crisis
May 21: Protecting Patients from Surprise Medical Bills
June 12: Pathways to Universal Health Coverage

Senate HELP

- June 18: Lower Health Care Costs Act:

Senate Judiciary

- June 4: The Countdown: Fentanyl Analogues and the Expiring Emergency Scheduling Order
- June 12: Your Doctor/Pharmacist/Insurer Will See You Now: Competitive Implications of Vertical Consolidation in the Healthcare Industry

Special Committee on Aging

- June 19: The Complex Web of Prescription Drug Prices, Part III: Examining Agency Efforts to Further Competition and Increase Affordability

Legislative Schedule

The House will be in session June 18-June 27 and July 9-July 26. There will be a District Work Period July 1-July 5.
The Senate will be in session June 17-June 28 and July 8-July 31. There will be a District Work Period July 1-July 5.