

ACADEMY INSIDER

TRANSFORMING HEALTH POLICY STARTS
BY KEEPING CONNECTED



February 21, 2024



January 25: The Academy, along with 41 members of the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC) sent a letter to Representative David Scott (D-GA-13) and Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA), **in opposition to the Protect Lifesaving Anesthesia Care for Veterans Act of 2023 (H.R.3347/S.2070)**. This legislation would unnecessarily, and unjustifiably, restrict access for our Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) to practice at the full extent of their education and training within the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), adversely impacting the health care of our nation's veterans. [Read more.](#)

January 24: The Academy joined an amicus brief along with the American Academy of Pediatrics and other health care organizations related to an appeal of the [August 2022 amicus brief](#) **challenging the state of Texas's efforts to investigate gender-affirming care as child abuse.** [Read more](#)



Earlier this month, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) released the final rule for [the Medications for the Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder](#) which goes into effect later this year. This final rule will expand access to treatment for opioid use disorders and address longstanding barriers to treatment. Several provisions in the final rule include the Academy's recommendations from our February 2023 [comments](#) to the agency. This includes:

- Revising the definition of a "practitioner" to include health care professionals who are appropriately licensed by a State to prescribe and/or dispense medications for opioid use disorders and is authorized to practice within an opioid treatment program (nurse practitioners were specifically mentioned in the final rule);
- Increasing access for the administration and dispensing of methadone medication on unsupervised or "take home" use;
- Increasing flexibility to prescribe medications for the treatment of opioid use disorder via telehealth; and
- Expanding access to patient-centered models of care, reducing barriers to treatment services, and the removal of stigmatizing and outdated language.

The Academy appreciates SAMHSA's efforts to expand access to life-saving medications for opioid use disorder and will continue to identify and implement policies that inform federal agencies and



The Board approved the following Expert Panel Products, which were submitted by the [Academy's Expert Panels](#).

Policy Priority Area: Increase Accessibility to All Forms of Health Care

Manuscript: Policy Priorities to Improve Access to Specialty Advanced Practice Nursing Care for Mental Health and Substance Use Problems

Expert Panel: [Psychiatric, Mental Health & Substance Use](#)

- This manuscript focuses on the investments in the treatment and prevention of mental health and substance use disorders. The authors recommend policies that promote the utilization of the full nursing workforce to effectively decrease long-standing treatment gaps and broaden access to and delivery of evidence-based mental health and substance use disorder care.

Proposal: Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies and the Adverse Impact on Community Health

Expert Panel: [Breastfeeding](#)

- The proposed paper will examine the impact of natural disasters and public health emergencies on infant and young child feeding as an important public health and health equity issue.

Proposal: Lactation Telehealth and Breastfeeding Equity

Expert Panel: [Breastfeeding](#)

- The provision of human milk for an infant and the benefits of lactation for the mother are essential for lifelong health equity. In this manuscript, the authors will address telehealth services to improve human milk and breastfeeding exclusivity and duration to reduce inequities.

Policy Priority Area: Build Capacity to Support Nurses and Other Providers

Consensus Paper Proposal: Protecting our Caregivers with Comprehensive Strategies for Eliminating Workplace Violence

Expert Panels: [Psychiatric, Mental Health & Substance Use](#), [Trauma & Violence](#), and [Military & Veterans Health](#)

- This proposed consensus paper would be a follow-up to the Academy's Policy Dialogue "[Protecting our Caregivers - Comprehensive Strategies for Eliminating Workplace Violence](#)" and will explore the current legislative and regulatory environment affecting workplace violence in health care settings.



- [NAM Strategic Plan, 2024-2028](#)
 - Proceedings of a Workshop—in Brief: [State-Level Legal and Political Strategies Following the Repeal of Roe v. Wade](#)
 - [100 Days Mission Shares New Report Highlighting Recommendations for Pandemic Preparedness](#)
 - February 20: [After Roe: Pressing Issues Around Contraception Access](#)
 - February 20: [Just How Intelligent Is Artificial Intelligence?](#)
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Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

- [CMS Announces New Actions to Help Hospitals Meet Obligations under the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act \(EMTALA\)](#)
- [CMS Announces New Model to Advance Integration in Behavioral Health](#)
- [CMS Finalizes Rule to Expand Access to Health Information and Improve the Prior Authorization Process](#)

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

- [HHS Finalizes New Provisions to Enhance Integrated Care and Confidentiality for Patients with Substance Use Conditions](#)
- [Final Rule to Update Regulations for Older Americans Act Programs Rule strengthens the system of supports that help millions of people age in place](#)
- [HHS Releases the National Public Health Strategy to Prevent and Control Vector-Borne Diseases in People](#)
- [Statement from HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on Black History Month](#)
- [Biden-Harris Administration is Strengthening Medicare; Protecting and Serving America's Seniors](#)
- [HHS Announces Department Actions to Slow Surging Syphilis Epidemic](#)
- [HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra Announces New Actions to Increase Contraceptive Care Coverage on 51st Anniversary of Roe v. Wade](#)
- [HHS Roadmap for Behavioral Health Integration Fact Sheet of Accomplishments](#)
- [Biden-Harris Administration's ARPA-H Launches PARADIGM Program to Improve Rural Health Outcomes](#)
- [HHS Issues New Nondiscrimination Final Rule to Protect Conscience Rights](#)
- [HHS Releases Guidance to Help Prevent Homelessness for Youth Who Have Transitioned Out of Foster Care](#)

National Institutes on Health (NIH)

- [New direct links discovered between the brain and its surrounding environment](#)
 - [NIH study shows higher mortality rates for patients on respiratory support in rural intermediate care units](#)
 - [Cognitive behavioral therapy alters brain activity in children with anxiety](#)
 - [NIH-developed HIV antibodies protect animals in proof-of-concept study](#)
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AROUND THE HILL

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 Energy & Commerce

- January 31: [Health Subcommittee Hearing: "Health Care Spending In The United States: Unsustainable For Patients, Employers, And Taxpayers"](#)

House Committee on Veterans' Affairs

- January 30: [Full Committee Oversight Hearing: "The One Percent: Supporting America's Surviving Military Family Community"](#)
- January 29: [Subcommittee on Technology Modernization Oversight Hearing: "The Future of Data Privacy and Artificial Intelligence at VA"](#)

Senate Committee on Finance

- February 8: [Artificial Intelligence and Health Care: Promise and Pitfalls](#)

Senate Committee on Health, Education Labor & Pensions

- January 18: [Addressing Long COVID: Advancing Research and Improving Patient Care](#)

Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs

- January 31: [Vet Centers: Supporting the Mental Health Needs of Servicemembers, Veterans and their Families](#)

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