February 13: The Academy joined a letter from the US Breastfeeding Committee to Congress urging them to prioritize breastfeeding and human milk feeding during this congressional session. Issues discussed in the letter include federal funding for breastfeeding; infant nutrition security; access to lactation support and supplies; workplace protections; and maternity care. Read more.

February 21: The Academy, along with members of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, signed onto letters to the House and Senate in support of the proposed rules prohibiting menthol cigarettes and flavored cigars. Read the House and Senate letters.

March 6: The Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science (CANS) and the Academy sent a letter to the NIH Center for Scientific Review regarding their proposed revised simplified review framework for research project grant applications. Read more.

March 6: The Academy submitted comments to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regarding the Safeguarding the Rights of Conscience as Protected by Federal Statutes proposed rule. The proposed rule would restore the longstanding process for handling conscience complaints and provide additional safeguards to protect patients and providers against conscience and religious discrimination. Representatives from the Expert Panels on Aging; Bioethics; Health Equity; LGBTQ Health; Palliative & End-of-Life Care; and Women’s Health participated in the development of this letter. Read more.

March 6: The Academy, along with fifty-three members of the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC), joined a letter to the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS-ED) requesting at least $530 million for Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.]) and at least $210 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR, National Institutes of Health) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024. Read more.

March 8: The Academy, along with 150 other health care organizations, joined a letter to appropriations leaders requesting $500 million in funding for the Agency for Healthcare and Research and Quality (AHRQ) for fiscal year (FY) 2024. This request reflects an inflation adjustment and the demonstrated need to expand and accelerate investments to inform decision-making on the health care system as it recovers from the pandemic. Read more.
The National Academy of Medicine (NAM)’s Distinguished Nurse Scholar-in-Residence (DNSIR) program provides a year-long residential health policy opportunity in Washington, DC. This immersion experience supports the engagement of nurse leaders in a prominent role in health policy at the national level and facilitates their interaction with other health fellows and scholars. The American Academy of Nursing (Academy), the American Nurses Association (ANA), and the American Nurses Foundation (the Foundation), in partnership with NAM, support this program. The program seeks individuals who have the capacity and skills to generate policy for issues of special interest and the ability to promote greater public understanding. Applicants with demonstrated success in promoting health equity are strongly encouraged to apply. Applications are due on April 10, 2023 by 5:00 PM ET.

The Academy honors and recognizes its fellows this Women’s History Month who became established nursing leaders and made great strides in the military and health care. One notable Fellow is Estelle Massey Osbourne, RN, FAAN. Osbourne worked to ensure access to education and training for black nursing students. In 1943, Osbourne was appointed to the National Nursing Council for War Service when black nurses were prohibited from military service. By World War II’s end, the Cadet Nurse Corps inducted 2,000 black nurses due to her influence. The Academy is a long-time supporter of the United States Cadet Nurse Corps Service Recognition Act which honors and recognizes the women who served as cadet nurses during World War II.
The Academy released proceedings from their 2022 Policy Dialogue Series, which were hosted by the Academy’s Expert Panels.

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

**Policy Dialogue Meeting Proceedings: Finding Gain in the Losses: Strategic Solutions to the Mental and Behavioral Health Crisis in Children and Youth**

*Child, Adolescent & Family, Psychiatric, Mental Health & Substance Use, and the Violence Expert Panels*

- This policy dialogue addressed strategies and best practices to mitigate the effects of the national crisis of chronic stress on children, youth, and families, explore the impact of nursing on mental health resources, and address these policy implications.

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

**Policy Dialogue Meeting Proceedings: Optimizing the Nursing Workforce: Exploring Innovative Reforms and Policy Implications**

*Building Health Care System Excellence, Acute & Critical Care, and the Quality Health Care Expert Panels*

- This policy dialogue featured an expert discussion of policy issues associated with current workforce shortages, projected workforce demands, and models of care that optimize nurses’ and other members of the team’s scope of practice to build on the strengths of the nursing workforce.

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**FELLOW OPPORTUNITIES**

**National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)**

- **PAR-23-066:** *Research on Community Level Interventions for Firearm and Related Violence, Injury and Mortality Prevention (CLIF-VP) (UG3/UH3 Clinical Trial Required)* will support a network of research projects to develop and test interventions at the community or community organization level that aim to prevent firearm and related violence, injury and mortality. **Application Due Date: March 17, 2023.**

**Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)**

- **HRSA-23-090:** *The Integrated Substance Use Disorder Training Program (ISTP)* aims to expand the number of nurse practitioners, physician assistants, health service psychologists, counselors, nurses, and/or social workers, (including individuals completing clinical training requirements for licensure) trained to provide mental health and substance use disorder (SUD), including opioid use disorder (OUD) services in underserved community-based settings that integrate primary care, mental health, and SUD services,
including such settings that serve pediatric populations. Applicants must propose to plan, develop, and operate a 12-month, full-time (24 months half-time) training program to provide care for individuals in need of mental health and SUD/OUD prevention, treatment, and recovery services. The application deadline is March 21, 2023.

Health and Aging Policy Fellowship (HAPF)

- **Call for Applications for the 2023-2024 HAPF is Now Open.** This one-year Fellowship runs from October 1 – September 30 and has full-time and part-time tracks. It is conducted as a hybrid program of mentoring, networking, learning, and practicum experiences. Health and Aging Policy Fellows work across diverse fields of aging and develop lifelong partnerships and networks. Individually and collectively, they are improving the lives of older adults around the country. Candidates from underrepresented groups are especially encouraged to apply. **Submission Deadline is April 17, 2023.** Upcoming information sessions and additional information can be found [here](#).

Center for Climate Change, Climate Justice and Health

- April 1 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM EDT: **Climate Change & Health 2023: Achieving Human and Planetary Health through Sustainability Action**
  - Join national experts and faculty from the MGH Institute of Health Professions School of Nursing Center for Climate Change, Climate Justice and Health, and the Massachusetts General Hospital Center for the Environment and Health, Brigham and Women's Hospital to develop sustainable strategies to achieve human and planetary health.

National Academy of Medicine (NAM)

- **Foundation for Anesthesia Education and Research Establishes Endowed NAM Fellowship**
- **Advancing Primary Care with Underserved Communities: A Case Study of the Leonard A. Lauder Community Care Nurse Practitioner Program**

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM)

- March 16 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM ET: **Addressing the Long-Term Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Children and Families: Report Release**
- April 20-21: **Improving Access to High-Quality Mental Health Care for Veterans: A Workshop**
- April 25 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM ET: **Supporting the Health and Well-Being of Gender Diverse Youth: A Workshop.**

The Nurse Antigone Initiative

- March 23 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM ET: **The Susie King Taylor Project**
  - Susie King Taylor was the first Black Nurse to serve in the Union Army during the American Civil War, and the virtual presentation will be focusing on the perspectives of Black Nurses and Veterans during the discussion.
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- U.S. Teen Girls Experiencing Increased Sadness and Violence

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

- CMS Proposes Benefit Expansion for Mobility Devices, Advancing Health Equity for People with Disabilities
- CMS Waivers, Flexibilities, and the Transition Forward from the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

National Institute of Health (NIH)

- NIH RECOVER research identifies potential long COVID disparities

National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD)

- Workshop: “Improving Participation in Clinical Research” on March 30 and 31 from 11:00 am-5:00 pm EST. During this event, speakers and panelists will focus the discussion on evidence-based best practices to increase inclusive participation in clinical research as well as how to implement best-practices, including challenges to overcome and lessons learned. Learn more here.

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.

Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions

- February 16: Examining Health Care Workforce Shortages: Where Do We Go From Here?

Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs

- March 15: Examining the Future Path of VA’s Electronic Health Record Modernization Program