

ACADEMY INSIDER

TRANSFORMING HEALTH POLICY STARTS
BY KEEPING CONNECTED



August 16, 2023



August 1: The Academy, along with 50 members of the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC), sent a letter to Representative Lauren Underwood (D-IL-14) and Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ) thanking them for introducing the **Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act (H.R.3305/S.1606)**. The Momnibus Act provides a multipronged approach to addressing maternal health in the United States and improving maternal health outcomes, particularly among Black mothers. [Read more.](#)

July 25: The Academy joined an amicus brief along with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and other health care organizations challenging the state of Idaho's **legislation limiting access to gender-affirming care to individuals under the age of eighteen**. [Read more.](#)

July 24: The Academy, along with 55 members of the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC), joined a letter to Sen. Jeff Merkley and a bipartisan group of 11 cosponsors thanking them for introducing the **Nurse Corps Tax Parity Act (S.1446)**. This bill aims for parity between the Nurse Corps and other federal programs such as the National Health Service Corps by ensuring that the Nurse Corps is not subject to federal taxes. [Read more.](#)



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POLICY SPOTLIGHT

The United States has the highest rate of maternal mortality among similar high-income countries, and these statistics continue to worsen. The Academy has a longstanding commitment to addressing the causes, consequences, and solutions to combat prominent issues related to maternal and infant health. It is vital that nurses and key policymakers make critical investments to address social determinants of health (SDOH) that negatively affect the health outcomes of mothers and their children. The Academy further commends the work of the [Black Maternal Health Caucus](#), co-chaired by Representatives Lauren Underwood and Alma Adams, for their leadership and commitment to improving maternal health in our country and for designing a comprehensive plan to address the maternal health crisis, especially among Black and underserved mothers, through the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2023 ([H.R. 3305/S.1606](#)). The Academy remains ready to support bold policies through the work of our Expert Panels on [Maternal & Infant Health](#) and [Women's Health](#) to ensure that disproportionately impacted mothers and babies have access to critical resources, health care coverage, high-quality health, and community-based and social support. In addition to joining the recent letters to Representative Underwood and Senator Booker supporting the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act highlighted above, below are a few actions the Academy has taken to address the maternal health crisis:

- The Academy has attended the **Black Maternal Health Caucus's Stakeholder Summit** every year since 2019.
- The Academy, along with 243 other organizations, signed onto a letter to Congressional leaders in support of the maternal health provisions included in the Committee on Energy and Commerce's **Build Back Better Act**. The Energy and Commerce Committee print of the Act included Congresswoman Lauren Underwood's **Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act** previously supported by the Academy. [Read more.](#)
- The Academy sent a letter to Congresswoman Lauren Underwood supporting her bill, the **Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021 (Momnibus)**. The Momnibus is a set of 12 individual bills that aim to improve maternal health outcomes in the United States, particularly among Black mothers. The bills address issues such as COVID-19, climate change, mental health, female veteran care, and vaccines. [Read more.](#)
- The Academy signed onto a letter requesting Congress to **add maternal and infant health components to the Cures 2.0 Act**. The letter stressed that issues of access to maternity care, workforce shortages, and outcome disparities must be addressed as part of the pandemic response. [Read more.](#)
- The Academy, along with the Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science (CANS), submitted recommendations and comments to the **National Institutes of Health (NIH) regarding its Strategic Plan** for the fiscal years 2021 to 2025. The Academy and CANS applauded the broad, cross-cutting themes included in the plan while highlighting the need for eliminating health disparities, and maternal mortality in particular. [Read the letter sent to NIH here.](#)

- Policy Brief: [Pregnant and Parenting Women with a Substance Use Disorder: Actions and Policy for Enduring Therapeutic Practice](#) (March-April 2019)
- Policy Brief: [Reducing preterm births in the United States: Maternal infant health, child, adolescent and family, and women's health expert panels](#) (September-October 2018)
- Policy Brief: [African-American mothers' persistent excessive maternal death rates](#) (May-June 2018)
- Policy Brief: [Improving maternal and infant outcomes by promoting normal physiologic birth on hospital birthing units](#) (March-April, 2017)



The Board approved the following Consensus papers for publication in Nursing Outlook, which were submitted by the [Academy's Expert Panels](#).

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

Consensus Paper: Finding Gain in the Losses: Strategic Solutions to the Mental and Behavioral Health Crisis in Children and Youth

Expert Panels: [Child, Adolescent & Family](#), [Psychiatric, Mental Health & Substance Use](#), [Health Equity](#), and the [Trauma & Violence](#)

- This consensus paper provides specific workforce policy recommendations based on the discussion from the policy dialogue in the following four areas: mind the gaps; services that fit; developing partnerships that empower; and building support for trauma-informed care.

Policy Priority Area: Promote High-Impact Advances in Practice, Innovation, and Science

Consensus Paper: The Nurse's Role in a Precision Health and Patient-Centered Approach to Reducing COVID-19 Vaccination Hesitancy During Pregnancy

Expert Panels: [Maternal & Infant Health](#), [Bioethics](#), [Environmental and Public Health](#), [Emerging Infectious Diseases](#), [Health Equity](#), and [Health Behavior](#)

- This consensus paper explores recommendations to bolster nurses' engagement in patient-centered models of care to mitigate COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy in pregnancy.

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

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

Consensus Proposal: Not Just a Matter of a Place to Give Birth: The Structural, Systemic, and Political Barriers to Quality Healthcare for Childbearing Persons and Families

Expert Panels: [Women's Health](#) and [Maternal & Infant Health](#)

- This proposal would inform decisions in federal legislative or regulatory processes related to maternal and infant morbidity/mortality, especially for people from racial and ethnic groups, people with lower incomes, and people who are uninsured are disproportionately affected.

Policy Priority Area: Promote High-Impact Advances in Practice, Innovation, and Science

- This proposal would summarize and build upon the January 2023 Policy Dialogue *Nursing Leadership in Decarbonizing the US Health Sector* meeting's proceedings, and the summary article published on the Policy Dialogue in *the American Journal of Nursing*, while providing direct guidance and including policy recommendations on how to decarbonize the health care sector.

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

Manuscript Proposal: Scoping Review of Nurses' Occupational Chemical Exposures

Expert Panel: [Environmental and Public Health](#)

- This proposal would identify the established research on this issue, gaps in research, as well as the policy implications regarding regulations and legislation to be developed or modified, particularly OSHA regulations.

American Academy of Nursing on Policy: Publications in *Nursing Outlook*

The following Board approved paper was recently published in Nursing Outlook.

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

Consensus Paper: [American Academy of Nursing Expert Panel Consensus Statement on leveraging equity in policy to improve recognition and treatment of mental health, substance use disorders, and nurse suicide](#)

Expert Panels: [Psychiatric, Mental Health and Substance Use](#), [Bioethics](#), [Environmental and Public Health](#), [Military & Veterans Health](#), and [Quality Health Care](#)

- This consensus paper outlines issues of equity and evidence-based approaches for the care of nurses experiencing mental distress and substance use disorders. This paper also establishes an action plan to address risks to mental health and the factors contributing to nurse suicide.



The Equity-Minded Nurse Initiative

- The Future of Nursing: [Campaign for Action](#), an initiative of AARP Foundation, AARP, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, is pleased to announce it is accepting applications for a new award program, co-sponsored by nursing organizations, that will recognize nurses who are helping lead the way to health equity through practice, education, research or leadership. We hope you will consider applying, nominating someone, or sharing word of the program with others who may be interested. Individuals can [apply or nominate others](#) for an award through August 18. The *Campaign* will convene reviewers for each award category to evaluate applications and select winners, who will be notified in September.
 - The American Academy of Nursing is proud to co-sponsor the [The Equity-Minded Research Award](#) which recognizes a nurse researcher whose scholarship advances the science and the body of knowledge that advances health equity.

- For more information about the award program, please see the [frequently asked questions](#) on the Campaign's website.



The National Academy of Medicine (NAM)

- [NAM Special Publication on U.S. Health Payment and Financing Identifies Priority Actions to Advance Whole Person and Whole Population Health](#)
- [National Academies Presidents' Statement on Affirmative Action](#)
- August 29: [Decarbonizing Health Care: Taking the Next Step to Reduce Your Organization's Emissions](#)

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

- [U.S. Should Create a Federal Entity Responsible for Advancing Racial, Ethnic, and Tribal Health Equity, and Implement a Health Equity Policy Audit and Score Card](#)
- August 14: [Public Release Briefing for the Review of the Department of Veterans Affairs Presumption Decision Process](#)
- August 22: [Creating a Framework for Emerging Science, Technology, and Innovation in Health and Medicine: Report Release Webinar](#)
- August 24: [Meeting 1: Strategies to Improve Access to Behavioral Health Care Services through Medicare and Medicaid](#)
- September 7-8: [Developing an Agenda for Population Aging and Social Research in Low- and Middle-Income Countries \(LMICs\): A Workshop](#)
- September 7-8: [Improving the Health and Wellbeing of Children and Youth through Health Care System Transformation Committee Meeting 4](#)



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- [Provisional Suicide Deaths in the United States, 2022](#)
- [CDC to Launch "Bridge Access Program" in Fall 2023 to Provide Free COVID-19 Vaccines to Uninsured and Underinsured Adults](#)
- [CDC Recommends a Powerful New Tool to Protect Infants from the Leading Cause of Hospitalization](#)

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

- [FY 2024 Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment System \(IPPS\) and Long-Term Care Hospital Prospective Payment System \(LTCH PPS\) Final Rule — CMS-1785-F and CMS-1788-F Fact Sheet](#)

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

- [The Biden-Harris Administration Announces \\$100 Million to Grow the Nursing Workforce](#)
- [Biden-Harris Administration Launches National Dashboard to Track Heat-Related Illness](#)
- [HHS Announces the Formation of the Office of Long COVID Research and Practice and Launch of Long COVID Clinical Trials Through the RECOVER Initiative](#)
- [Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Treasury announce proposed rules to strengthen Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act](#)
- [Biden-Harris Administration Hosts Inaugural Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Mental Health Summit](#)
- [HHS Office for Civil Rights and the Federal Trade Commission Warn Hospital Systems and Telehealth Providers about Privacy and Security Risks from Online Tracking Technologies](#)

National Institutes on Health (NIH)

- [NIH launches long COVID clinical trials through RECOVER Initiative, opening enrollment](#)
- [Daily statin reduces heart disease risk among adults living with HIV](#)



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

- July 26: [Generational Learning Loss: How Pandemic School Closures Hurt Students](#)

House Committee on Veterans' Affairs

- July 27: [Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Oversight Hearing](#)

Senate Committee on Health, Education Labor & Pensions

- Postponed: [The Primary Care and Health Workforce Expansion Act](#)
- July 20: [S. 2333, Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Response Act](#)

Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs

- July 26: [Implementing the PACT Act: One Year Later](#)

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