July 9: 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.

July 10: The Academy signed onto a letter supporting H.R. 7286, the Quit Because of COVID-19 Act. This legislation that will ensure that all Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program enrollees have access to the full array of evidence-based tobacco cessation treatments at this critical time. Read more.

July 30: The Academy sent a letter to congressional leaders asking them to support at least $6 million in funding for a longstanding and effective program that promotes the health and wellness of our nation’s military, the TriService Nursing Research Program (TSNRP), in HR 6935, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for fiscal year 2021. Read more.

August 18: The Academy submitted comments in response to the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) final rule "Nondiscrimination in Health and Health Education Programs or Activities" expressing concern regarding the significant implications it will have on individuals' timely access to comprehensive health care services. This rule will weaken or eliminate protections for our most vulnerable populations. The Acute & Critical Care, Global Nursing & Health; LGBTQ Health; Nursing Theory Guided Practice; Psychiatric, Mental Health & Substance Abuse; and Women’s Health Expert Panels as well as the Academy’s Jonas Policy Scholars contributed to this letter. Read the full comments here.
With the generous support of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Academy seeks to honor the incredible contributions of nurses throughout the coronavirus pandemic by awarding a nurse—in each of the following areas—$8,000 in professional development funding to further their efforts:

- **Policy**—Nominate a nurse who has advocated for policy changes at the institutional, local, state, or national level that has improved patient care during COVID-19.
- **Leadership**—Nominate a nurse who has coordinated, inspired, or provided essential leadership in response to COVID-19.
- **Innovation**—Nominate a nurse who has created or designed an innovation to better patient outcomes or experiences in the fight against COVID-19.
- **Science**—Nominate a nurse who has supported or is currently undertaking research to improve the quality of COVID-19-related care.

*Note: Awardees do not have to be a Fellow of the Academy to be selected but they must be nominated by a Fellow.*

Nominations are due **Tuesday, September 8, 2020.**

Learn more.
During the webinar, representatives from the NAM study on the Future of Nursing 2020-2030 will share updates on the study's status and seek public input on nurses' roles in responding to COVID-19. A panel of experts will also discuss how nursing can advance health equity, the role of nurses in public health emergencies, and nurses' experiences on the frontlines of COVID-19.

### National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)

- **Submit Your Feedback:** [Tell Us What Nursing Research Means to You](#)
  
  NINR would like help in capturing what nursing research means to those who live it. They are gathering this information to learn more from our community and collectively begin describing the next frontiers in nursing science. **Responses will be collected until August 31, 2020.**

### ADMINISTRATION ACTIVITIES

### The White House

- **Fact Sheet:** [Expanding Access to Telehealth Services and Ensuring Continued Access to Healthcare for Rural Americans](#)
- **Fact Sheet:** [Delivering a Safe and Effective Vaccine to the American People](#)

### Federal Register

### Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

- **Proposed Rule:** [Revisions to Payment Policies under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule, Quality Payment Program and Other Revisions to Part B for CY 2021](#)
  
  This major proposed rule addresses: changes to the physician fee schedule (PFS); other changes to Medicare Part B payment policies to ensure that payment systems are updated to reflect changes in medical practice, relative value of services, and changes in the statute; Medicare Shared Savings Program requirements; Medicaid Promoting Interoperability Program requirements for Eligible Professionals; updates to the Quality Payment Program; Medicare coverage of opioid use disorder services furnished by opioid treatment programs; Medicare enrollment of Opioid Treatment Programs; payment for office/outpatient evaluation and management services; Requirement for Electronic Prescribing for Controlled Substances for a Covered Part D drug under a prescription drug plan or an MA-PD plan and Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program (MDPP) expanded model Emergency Policy.

### Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

- **Bulletin:** [Civil Rights Protections Prohibiting Race, Color, and National Origin Discrimination During COVID-19](#)
  
  As part of the national response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, HHS has provided substantial Federal financial assistance to state and local agencies, hospitals, and other healthcare providers on the front lines of the COVID-19 response.
Around the Administration

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- Please continue to check the website created by the CDC to provide day-to-day updates on the coronavirus pandemic in the United States.

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 Committee**

- July 23: Underfunded & Unprepared: Examining How to Overcome Obstacles to Safely Reopen Public Schools
- July 24: Looked Over and Left Behind: How the Administration’s Failed COVID-19 Response Has Hurt Native Students

**House Energy & Commerce Committee**

- July 21: Pathway to a Vaccine: Efforts to Develop a Safe, Effective and Accessible COVID-19 Vaccine
- July 28: There's Something in the Water: Reforming Our Nation's Drinking Water Standards
- July 29: Improving Access to Care: Legislation to Reauthorize Key Public Health Programs

**House Veterans’ Affairs Committee**

- July 21: Getting Veterans to Work After COVID-19
- July 22: Who's in Charge? Examining Oversight of State Veterans Homes During the COVID-19 Pandemic

**House Ways & Means Committee**

- July 17: The Impact of COVID-19 on Social Security and its Beneficiaries

**Senate Committee on Finance**

- July 28: Part 1: Protecting the Reliability of the U.S. Medical Supply Chain During the COVID-19 Pandemic
- July 30: Part 2: Protecting the Reliability of the U.S. Medical Supply Chain During the COVID-19 Pandemic

**Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee**

- July 29: VA Telehealth During and Beyond COVID-19: Challenges and Opportunities in Rural America