July 16: The Academy, along with 51 other organizations, **signed onto a letter to Senators Durbin and Wyden in support of the Tobacco Tax Equity Act of 2021** (S. 1314). This legislation would increase the federal excise tax on cigarettes and set federal tax rates for other tobacco products at an equivalent level, helping to prevent young people from starting to use tobacco products and helping current users to quit. [Read more](#).

July 26: The Academy, along with over 50 other professional health care organizations, **signed onto a letter to call for required COVID-19 vaccines for all health care and long-term care workers**. Because of highly contagious variants, including the Delta variant, and significant numbers of unvaccinated people, COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths are once again rising throughout the United States and globally. The Academy agrees vaccination is the primary way to ease the pandemic and avoid the return of stringent public health measures. [Read more](#).

July 30: Nancy S. Redeker, PhD, RN, FAHA, FAAN, Chair of the Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science (CANS) **gave oral comments to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) regarding the ARPA-H Initiative at the listening session with advocates for Research on Minority Health and Health Disparities, and Nursing**. Dr. Redeker’s comments explained that CANS would like to see a truly transformative review processes within the ARPA-H Initiative. She further explained that the ARPA-H Initiative provides a unique opportunity to explore innovative, high-risk proposals without the normal limitations that have been part of the NIH review structure. Dr. Redeker also commented on the need for ARPA-H funded projects to include a holistic view that considers individual preferences and capabilities which should be paramount in any innovative health solutions. See video of the listening session [here](#).

August 3: Eileen Sullivan-Marx, PhD, RN, FAAN, President of the Academy, **participated in a listening session with NIH Director Francis Collins and biomedical organizations on the ARPA-H Initiative**. President Sullivan-Marx’s comments focused on eliminating discrimination and racism as well as improving health equity through ARPA-H funded research which could identify research disparity gaps and prioritize funding for research that looks at all communities. President Sullivan-Marx explained that nursing has historically and traditionally been catalysts in communities and that support to catalyze the nursing role not only as a trusted professional but also as a brain trust in science, innovation, and leadership would lead to better outcomes though community led and supportive innovations funded through this Initiative. The ARPA-H Initiative presents an opportunity to access telehealth in rural and other underserved areas that lack the technology infrastructure that will only exacerbate rural health disparities and President Sullivan-Marx encouraged the ARPA-H Initiative to consider this issue as opportunity to be leveraged. See a summary of the listening session [here](#).

August 10: The Academy **participated in a National Academy of Medicine Twitter chat** with stakeholders to discuss the *Future of Nursing 2020-2030* report. [Read more](#).
American Nurses Association (ANA)

- **Policy, Innovation, and Advocacy Virtual Forum** (September 14, 2021) ANA invites you to attend its first-ever virtual Policy, Innovation, and Advocacy (PI+A) Forum. Policy, innovation, and advocacy are imperative to addressing our rapidly changing health care environment. Register for a day of rich discussions around the health priorities of the new administration and the impact of COVID-19 across care delivery systems nationally. Community, state, and national leaders, including several Academy Fellows will be presenting. The Opening Keynote will be provided by RADM Susan Orsega, MSN, FNP-BC, FAANP, FAAN and moderated by Mary Wakefield, PhD, RN, FAAN. [Register](#) and learn more.

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

- **Bureau of Health Workforce**
  - [Teaching Health Center Planning and Development Program](#) - apply by August 30 ([Technical Assistance](#))
  - [Promoting Resilience and Mental Health Among Health Professional Workforce (PRMHW)](#) - apply by August 30
  - [Health and Public Safety Workforce Resiliency Training Program](#) - apply by August 30 ([HPSWRTAC Technical Assistance Center](#))
- **HIV/AIDS Bureau**
  - [Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Part A HIV Emergency Relief Grant Program](#) - apply by October 6
  - [AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) Emergency Relief Funds (ERE)](#) - apply by October 25
  - [Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program HIV Care Grant Program – Part B States/Territories Formula and AIDS Drug Assistance Program Formula and ADAP Supplemental Awards](#) - apply by November 8
- **Maternal and Child Health Bureau**
  - [Maternal and Child Health Services](#) – apply by September 1

National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)

- NINR is seeking applications from outstanding candidates for **Director, Division of Extramural Science Programs (DESP)**, **Clinical Director, Division of Intramural Research (DIR)** and **Scientific Director, Division of Intramural Research** to provide visionary leadership for the Institute. All positions are part of the NINR senior leadership team and report directly to the NINR Director. [Read More](#).
Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC)

- BPC released results of telehealth visit use among U.S. Adults. See the presentation [here](#).

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

- **Statement**: The Science Academies from G20 Nations Urge Their Governments to Promote Creation of Global Surveillance Network to Detect Early Signs of Potential Future Pandemics. [Read more](#).
- **Article**: Health System Leaders are Addressing Clinician Burnout During COVID-19 and Beyond, featuring Kevin Sowers, MSN, RN, FAAN. Read more [here](#).

National Academy of Medicine (NAM)

- NAM has partnered with the Aspen Institute and more than 60 participants across the different sectors to form the Action Collaborative on Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic. [Learn more](#).
- **New Podcast Series**: NAM and the Aspen Institute present *Countering the Opioid Crisis: Time to Act* that will expand upon issues critical to reversing the deadly trends of the U.S. opioid epidemic, including the impact of COVID-19, structural racism and the war on drugs, stigma against people with addiction, the promise of improving education and training for health care professionals, and more.
- Last month, NAM hosted a symposium, *Stigma of Addiction Summit*, that focused on understanding, addressing, and eliminating the harmful impacts of stigma on people who use drugs and experience addiction. View recordings and transcripts of the full symposium and access additional resources [here](#).

National Institute for Health Care Management (NIHCM)

- News on the COVID Surge, Mental Health, & STIs. Read more [here](#).

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- [CDC recommends COVID-19 Vaccines during Pregnancy](#).
- [CDC released provisional data on drug overdose deaths in midst of COVID-19](#).
- CDC released COVID-19 guidance for Operating Early Care and Education/Child Care Programs.
- CDC released guidance for Parents and Guardians Whose Children Show Signs of COVID-19 from School transmission.
- CDC released guidance for COVID-19 prevention in K-12 schools.
- CDC extended order at the Southern and Northern Land Borders.
- CDC issued Eviction Moratorium Order in Areas of Substantial and High Transmission.
- Latest CDC Study: Vaccinations offer Higher Protection than Previous COVID-19 Infection.
- Latest CDC-Funded Pilot Program in Georgia uses Public Art to Increase Confidence in COVID-19 Vaccinations.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

- CMS proposed Rule to Support Home Care Workers Access to Benefits.
- CMS Final Rule Improves Health Equity, Access to Treatment, Hospital Readiness, and COVID-19 Vaccination Data Reporting of Hospital Workers.
CMS released data that American Rescue Plan Lowered Health Costs for Millions of Americans Ahead of August 15 Deadline to Get Covered on HealthCare.gov

Medicaid Authorities and Options to Address Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)

Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)

- **HHS To Require Its Entire Health Care Workforce Be Vaccinated**
- **HHS announced Phase Two of HPV Vaccination Campaign for Young Adults**
- **HHS and U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) issued Guidance on "Long COVID" and Disability Rights Under the ADA, Section 504, and Section 1557**
- **Biden-Harris Administration provided $121 Million in American Rescue Plan Funds to Support Local Community-Based Efforts to Increase COVID-19 Vaccinations in Underserved Communities**
- **The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Awarded $250 Million to 100 Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers to Improve Community Substance Use Disorder and Mental Health Treatment Services**
- **HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra, CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure released statements on the 56th Anniversary of Medicare and Medicaid**
- **Biden-Harris Administration provided $90 Million to Improve Health Care in Rural Communities**
- **HHS released Sixth COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force Meeting**
- **Biden-Harris Administration provided $100 Million to Rural Health Clinics for COVID-19 Vaccine Outreach in Their Communities to Increase Vaccinations**
- **Biden Administration plans to invest more than $1.6 Billion to Support COVID-19 Testing and Mitigation in Vulnerable Communities**
- **HHS encouraged States to Educate Eligible Immigrants about Medicaid**
- **HHS announced New National Challenge to Reduce HIV-Related stigma and Disparities**
- **HHS announced more than 2.5 Million Americans Gain Health Coverage During Special Enrollment**

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

- **HRSA announced Major Effort to Strengthen and Expand Community-Based Residency Programs in Rural and Underserved Communities**
- **HRSA launched new Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Compass Dashboard**

National Institute of Health (NIH)

- **NIH-wide Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2021-2025**
- **NIH releases data on 1.5 million children losing a primary or secondary caregiver due to COVID-19**

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**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 Committee on Education and Labor**
- July 15: [H.R. 2119, the Family Violence Prevention and Services Improvement Act of 2021; H.R. 3992, the Protect Older Job Applicants Act; H.R. 729, the Strength in Diversity Act of 2021, and H.R. 730, the Equity and Inclusion Enforcement Act of 2021](#)
- July 20: [Care for Our Communities: Investing in the Direct Care Workforce](#)
- July 21: [Phasing Out Subminimum Wages: Supporting the Transition to Competitive Integrated Employment for Workers with Disabilities](#)
- July 28: [Food for Thought: Examining Federal Nutrition Programs for Young Children and Infants](#)
- July 29: [Keeping the Pell Grant Promise: Increasing Enrollment, Supporting Success](#)

**House Committee on Energy and Commerce**

- July 14: [Keeping Us Safe and Secure: Oversight of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission](#)
- July 29: [The Path Forward: Advancing Treatments and Cures for Neurodegenerative Diseases](#)

**House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs**

- July 20: [Isakson-Roe at Six Months: An Update on Implementation of Education Improvements](#)
- July 21: [Moving Forward: Evaluating Next Steps for the Department of Veterans Affairs Electronic Health Record Modernization Program](#)
- July 27: [Aging in Place: Examining Veterans’ Access to Home and Community Based Services](#)

**House Committee on Ways and Means**


**Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions**

- July 21: [Addressing Disparities in Life Expectancy](#)
- July 27: [The Path Forward: Building on Lessons Learned from the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)