Statement on Racism

The American Academy of Nursing (Academy) stands with those across the country calling for action to change structures and policies that have enabled and permitted senseless violence to occur. Violence, discrimination, and racism have a direct impact on determinants of health, exacerbate health inequities, and can lead to long-term trauma. With heavy hearts and sorrow, the Academy reinforces our firm commitment to reducing health inequities and eradicating disparities.

Read the Academy's full statement here.

May 18: The Academy along with other health care organizations sent a letter to Vice President Mike Pence and others in the Administration supporting the Department of Veterans’ Affairs’ Directive 1899 to remove barriers to practice and allow for Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists to practice to the full extent of their education and abilities. Read more here.

May 30: The Academy submitted comments to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding opportunities to improve health care access, quality, and outcomes for women and infants in rural communities before, during, and after pregnancy. Read more here.

June 2: The Academy released a follow-up statement to reinforce its April 17 statement that the United States involvement in the World Health Organization (WHO) is vital to global access to resources and protecting global health security.
June 8: The Academy signed onto a letter along with other health care organizations supporting the Access to Contraception for Servicemembers and Dependents Act of 2019 and any effort to include the legislation in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021. This bill would ensure that all servicemembers and their dependents who rely on the military for health care have improved access to comprehensive contraception coverage and family planning care. Read more here.

The Academy supports this week’s historic Supreme Court 6-3 decision that bars discrimination based on sexuality or gender identity. In August, the Academy submitted comments to the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Civil Rights arguing against discrimination in health services based on gender identity. The Academy will continue its commitment to advancing policies that promote the health of the LGBTQ+ community.

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**FELLOW OPPORTUNITIES**

**June 19th Application Deadline:** Johnson & Johnson: Maternal Health Quickfire Challenge

- With up to $200,000 in grant funding being awarded, the goal of this challenge is to discover solutions to help mothers survive and prevent adverse consequences from pregnancy and childbirth. Submissions must be actionable, measurable, filling a current data gap, sustainable, and/or scalable. Learn more.

**August 26th Application Deadline:** Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF): Evidence for Action: Approaches to Advance Gender Equity from Around the Globe

- The goal of this funding opportunity is to translate and adapt global knowledge on approaches that can improve health or determinants of health by improving gender equity. An informational webinar will be held on June 23rd.
National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM)

- Feature Story: Academies Study Will Give Guidance to K-12 Schools on How to Safely Reopen
- Feature Story: Facing a Future Shaped by COVID-19: How Public Universities are Handling the Crisis
- Feature Story: Vaccine Access and Hesitancy: The Public Health Importance of Vaccines
- Reports & Events Monthly Calendar: June 2020

Administration Activities

From the President's Desk

Guidelines: Opening Up America Again

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.

National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), National Institutes of Health (NIH)

- Recommendation Statement: Screening for Unhealthy Drug Use
  - On June 9th, the U.S. Preventative Services Task Force released a final recommendation statement on screening for unhealthy drug use.

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 Energy & Commerce

- June 2: On the Front Line: How Governors Are Battling the COVID-19 Pandemic
- June 9: Pollution and Pandemics: COVID-19’s Disproportionate Impact on Environmental Justice Communities
- June 17: Health Care Inequality: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in COVID-19 and the Health Care System

House Ways & Means

- May 27: The Disproportionate Impact of COVID-19 on Communities of Color

Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP)

- June 4: COVID-19: Going Back to College Safely
- June 10: COVID-19: Going Back to School Safely

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