October 7: The Academy, along with 32 other health care organizations, signed on to a letter to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Secretary Denis McDonough supporting the VA’s work to develop National Standards of Practice. The letter highlights the ability to increase veteran access to timely, high-quality health care through this process. Read more.

October 21: The Academy, along with over 200 other organizations, signed on to a letter to Congressional leaders urging action to complete the Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) budget to avoid another continuing resolution. The letter emphasizes that FY22 increases are urgently needed to fund research and advance health priorities at agencies such as the NIH and CDC. Read more.

November 4: The Academy, along with 11 other nursing organizations, signed on to comments to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure on the Conditions of Participation (CoPs) and Conditions for Coverage (CfCs) as well as Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra on the HHS Draft Strategic Plan for FY 2022-2026. Both comments call to make permanent the regulatory waivers that help APRNs practice to the full extent of their education and clinical training, which would help to strengthen the healthcare workforce, increase access to care, and improve health equity. Read the CMS and HHS letters.

November 10: The Academy, along with 60 other organizations, signed on to a letter to the Office of Management and Budget Deputy Director Shalanda Young to request that provisions to reduce tobacco use be prioritized in President Biden’s Fiscal Year 2023 budget. The letter requests that the President’s FY 23 budget includes a minimum funding level of $310 million for CDC’s Office on Smoking & Health and includes a proposal to expand access to tobacco cessation medications and services in Medicaid and CHIP. Read more.

Academy Fellow Representative Lauren Underwood’s Protecting Moms Who Served Act was passed by the House of Representatives on November 16th and has been sent to the President to be signed into law. This is one of the legislative pieces included in the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021, which the Academy supports.
HRSA has new research funding initiatives and opportunities that are available for submission.

NINR is seeking applications from outstanding candidates for Director, Division of Extramural Science Programs (DESP), Clinical Director, Division of Intramural Research (DIR), Deputy Director 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.

- NINR has a number of new funding initiatives and opportunities available.

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

- Feature Story: “We Can’t Wait Any Longer’ — As the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) Approaches, NAS President Marcia McNutt Discusses Science and Solutions to Climate Change.” Read more.
- Perspectives: "Evolutionary Medicine Needs Engineering Expertise." Read more.
- Feature Story: "Violence Against Health Workers During War." Read more.

National Academy of Medicine (NAM)


National Institute for Health Care Management (NIHCM)

- NIHCM hosted a webinar, "The Implications of Long COVID for Patients & the Health Care System," today, November 17, at noon. Learn more.
- NIHCM released a November 2021 Newsletter "Vaccinating Children." Read more.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- CDC updated the blood lead reference value for children.
- CDC released a new study: vaccination offers higher protection than previous COVID-19 infection.
- CDC recommended pediatric COVID-19 vaccine for children 5 to 11 years.
- CDC released guidance: importance of one health for COVID-19 and future pandemics.
- CDC released information about 88 Million Americans at risk for type 2 diabetes.
- CDC held a virtual recruitment event for students from historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs).
- CDC reports global progress against measles threatened amidst COVID-19 pandemic.
- CDC will host a panel discussion on protecting health worker mental health: A Call to Action.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

- Guidance to states on required Medicaid and CHIP coverage for COVID-19-related treatment.
- CMS - eligible consumers have coverage for COVID-19 booster shots at no cost.
- CMS extended Medicaid postpartum coverage in New Jersey.
- CMS took decisive steps to reduce health care disparities among patients with chronic kidney disease and end-stage renal disease.
- New Report: Federal health insurance options helped prevent major coverage losses.
- CMS released open enrollment at HealthCare.gov with record low premiums.
- Release: Biden-Harris Administration Improves Home Health Services for Older Adults and People with Disabilities.
- CMS coverage available for COVID-19 vaccinations for eligible children ages 5 through 11.
- Emergency Regulation Requiring COVID-19 Vaccination for Health Care Workers.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

- FDA, NIH, and 15 private organizations seek to increase effective gene therapies for rare diseases
- FDA authorized Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for Emergency Use in children 5 through 11 years of Age
- FDA approved treatment for Rare Blood Disease
- FDA updated policies to help to ensure Accuracy and Reliability of COVID-19 tests and increased access to At-Home Tests.

Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)

- New HHS Actions to Increase Access to Easy-to-Use Over-the-Counter COVID-19 Tests
- HHS announced nearly $800 Million in American Rescue Plan Funds to support domestic violence and sexual assault survivors and their children
- HHS Secretary Becerra announced a new Overdose Prevention Strategy
- HHS Announces $256 Million to expand access to equitable and affordable Title X Family Planning Services
- HHS released a new report: Federal Health Insurance Options helped prevent major coverage losses

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

- HHS Announces $143.5 Million to Expand Community-Based Efforts to Address Barriers to COVID-19 Vaccination
- HHS Announces Availability of $100 Million for State Loan Repayment Programs to Support Primary Health Care Workforce in Underserved Communities

National Institute of Health (NIH)

- News Release: "NIH to study long-term effects of COVID-19 in pregnancy"
- News Release: "In-person school during COVID-19 must address needs of underserved communities"
- News Release: “Researchers find disparities in suicide risk among lesbian, gay, and bisexual adults”
- News Release: “Extreme eating problems in early childhood linked to higher chance of developmental delay, NIH study suggests”
- News Release: “Repurposed cancer treatments could be potential Alzheimer’s drugs”
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**

- November 3: [Subcommittee Hearing: A Call to Action: Modernizing the Community Services Block Grant](#)
- November 17: [Joint Subcommittee Hearing: Examining the Implementation of COVID-19 Education Funds](#)

**House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs**

- November 2: [Next Steps: Examining Plans for the Continuation of the Department of Veterans Affairs Electronic Health Record Modernization Program](#)
- November 17: [Supporting Survivors: Assessing VA’s Military Sexual Trauma Programs](#)
- November 18: [Modernizing VA’s Medical Supply Chain: Progress Made?](#)

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

- November 4: [Full Committee Hearing: Next Steps: The Road Ahead for the COVID-19 Response](#)

**Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs**

- November 3: [VA and DoD Collaboration: Improving Outcomes for Servicemembers and Veterans](#)
- November 17: [Hearing to Consider Pending Legislation](#)