September 14: The Academy along with 52 members of the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC) sent letters to Representatives Takano and Bost in support of H.R. 2568, the United States Cadet Nurse Corps Service Recognition Act of 2021. The Academy previously expressed support for H.R. 2568 when the bill was introduced by Senator Warren and Representative Bustos in April. Read more.

September 17: 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 print of the 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.

September 20: The Academy signed on to an amicus brief along with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), the American Medical Association (AMA), and other health care organizations challenging the state of Mississippi’s efforts to ban access to safe reproductive care. Read more.

September 24: The Academy along with the Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science (CANS) sent a letter to Dr. Francis S. Collins, Director of the NIH, offering comments regarding the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) Initiative. The comments emphasized the proposed agency’s opportunity to be nimble in research and address health equity. Read more.

September 27: The Academy sent a letter to Representative Grace Meng in support of H.R. 4892, the Quiet Communities Act of 2021. This act would reestablish the Office of Noise Abatement and Control in the Environmental Protection Agency, addressing the burden and threat posed by environmental noise pollution. Read more.

October 11: The Academy signed on to an amicus brief along with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), the American Medical Association (AMA), and other health care organizations challenging the state of Texas’s efforts to ban access to safe reproductive care. Read more.
**Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)**

- HRSA has **new research funding initiatives and opportunities** that are available for submission. [View all](#).

**National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD)**

- NIMHD co-authored a study that highlights the pandemic’s disproportionate impact on Black, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Latino populations. Read more [here](#).
- NIMHD co-funded study analyzed the impact of unhealthy behaviors on the relationship between chronic stress and depression among individuals of Hispanic/Latino heritages. Learn more [here](#).

**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)**, **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 is accepting applications for FY22 Smart Health and Biomedical Research in the Era of Artificial Intelligence and Advanced Data Science (SCH) Program.
- NINR has a **number of new funding initiatives and opportunities** that are available for submission. To help the process, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) released a [Guide Notice](#) for submissions.

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

- **Feature Story**: "How College and University Leaders Are Getting Their Campuses Vaccinated."
- **Feature Story**: "Confronting a ‘Triple Existential Threat’ — NAM President Victor Dzau Discusses How Health and Medicine Can Respond to Current Crises."
National Academy of Medicine (NAM)

- **Annual Meeting**: NAM held their annual meeting over **October 16-18** focusing on the three existential threats to our society: COVID-19, climate change and structural racism.
- NAM launched an [Action Collaborative on Decarbonizing the U.S. Health Sector](#).
- **New Video**: NAM released a video Encouraging Latinx/Latino(a)/Hispanic Americans to Accept the COVID-19 Vaccine.
- **Webinar**: NAM’s Leadership Consortium Evidence Mobilization Action Collaborative will host a 2-part webinar series: Rebuilding Public Trust in Biomedical Science and Research on **November 4**.

National Institute for Health Care Management (NIHCM)

- **Webinar Series**: NIHCM will host Session 5 "Who Gets Health Care and Why: AI, Race and Health Equity" in their webinar series *Stopping the other Pandemic: Systemic Racism and Health*.
- **New Resource**: NIHCM published an infographic titled “Disability, Health Equity & COVID-19.”
- **Webinar**: NIHCM will host a webinar "The State of Oral Health: Increasing Access & Reducing Disparities" on **November 9**.
- **Newsletter**: October 2021 Newsletter "Boosters, Health Equity & Mental Health."

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- CDC released a [statement on Pregnancy Health Advisory](#).
- CDC released [recommendations for Tribal Ceremonies and Gatherings During the COVID-19 Outbreak](#).
- CDC updated their information on [COVID-19 quarantine for K-12 schools](#).
- CDC announced the Department of Housing and Urban Development updated their [COVID-19 resource digest for homeless providers](#).
- **CDC Press Release**: "The Hidden U.S. COVID-19 Pandemic: Orphaned Children – More than 140,000 U.S. Children Lost a Primary or Secondary Caregiver Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic"
- **CDC Expands Eligibility for COVID-19 Booster Shots**
- CDC released a [new resource page](#) for weekly and monthly survey results to monitor COVID-19 vaccinations and confidence in vaccination among adults.
- Review the CDC’s [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) news](#):
  - MMWR on the use of [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine in persons aged 16 and older](#).
  - MMWR on the outbreak of [SARS-CoV-2 Delta variant infections among incarcerated person in a federal prison](#).
  - MMWR on the [comparative effectiveness of Moderna, Pfizer-BioNTech, and Janssen vaccines in preventing COVID-19 hospitalizations](#) among adults without immunocompromising conditions.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

- CMS announced [$15 Million to 20 States for Mobile Crisis Intervention](#).
- **New Tool**: Compare Nursing Home Vaccination Rates.
The Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

- Proposal: FDA issued Proposal to Improve Access to Hearing Aid Technology
- FDA took Additional Actions on the Use of a Booster Dose for COVID-19 Vaccines
- FDA permitted the Marketing of New Oral Tobacco Products through Premarket Tobacco Product Application Pathway

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)

- Funding: HHS announced Funding for Public Health IT Workforce Development Program
- News Release: Biden-Harris Administration Advances Key Protections Against Surprise Medical Bills
- Funding: Biden-Harris Administration Provides Nearly $1 Billion in American Rescue Plan Funds to Modernize Health Centers and Support Underserved Communities
- Readout: DOJ, HHS Listening Session on the Bipartisan COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act with Organizations Representing Communities Impacted by Hate
- Policy Statement: HHS unveiled their Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan and Policy Statement
- Fact Sheet: Efforts Across HHS to Promote Behavioral Health for Children and Youth
- News Release: Biden-Harris Administration Greenlights Coverage of LGBTQ+ Care as an Essential Health Benefit in Colorado
- Readout: Seventh COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force Meeting
- Funding: HHS announced the availability of $100 Million for State Loan Repayment Programs to Support Primary Health Care Workforce in Underserved Communities
- Medicare Open Enrollment - October 15 - December 7, 2021
- Statement: HHS released statements Commemorating the First Openly Transgender Four-Star Officer and First Female Four-Star Admiral of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps
- Funding: HHS invested over $560 million to Bolster Product Manufacturing to Increase Supply, Availability of COVID-19 Tests
- HHS COVID-19 Resources Page

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

- Policy Statement: Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORPH) released a New Plan and Policy Statement for Climate Impacts on Health
- Webinar: “The Urgency and Strategies for Improving Young Adult COVID-19 Immunization Rates” on October 27

National Institute of Health (NIH)

- News Release: "Methamphetamine-involved overdose deaths nearly tripled between 2015 to 2019, NIH study finds"
- News Release: "NIH-supported study suggests alternative to race-based kidney function calculations"
- News Release: "NIAID issues new awards to fund “pan-coronavirus” vaccines"
- NIH released a community listening session under the NIH Common Fund’s Transformative Research to Address Health Disparities and Advance Equity.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health (SAMHSA)

- SAMHSA released resources designed to address mental health and resiliency in school settings during the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- SAMHSA Awards Record-Setting $825 Million in Grants to Strengthen Community Mental Health Centers, and Support Americans Living with Serious Emotional Disturbances, Mental Illnesses
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

- September 28: How to Save a Life: Successful Models for Protecting Communities from COVID-19
- September 30: Protecting Students and Taxpayers: Improving the Closed School Discharge Process
- October 6: Homecoming: The Historical Roots and Continued Contributions of HBCUs
- October 26: Protecting Lives and Livelihoods: Vaccine Requirements and Employee Accommodations

House Committee on Energy and Commerce

- September 22: Putting Kids First: Addressing COVID-19's Impacts on Children
- October 20: Enhancing Public Health: Legislation to Protect Children and Families
- October 26: Caring for America: Legislation to Support Patients, Caregivers, and Providers
- October 27: TSCA and Public Health: Fulfilling the Promise of the Lautenberg Act

House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs

- September 22: Veteran Suicide Prevention: Innovative Research and Expanded Public Health Efforts
- September 22: Creating a Welcoming VA and Building Equity for Veterans Through Legislation
- October 2: Ending Veteran Hunger: Examining the Impact of COVID-19 on Food Insecurity
- October 13: Domestic Violent Extremist Groups and the Recruitment of Veterans
- October 13: Subcommittee on Health Legislative Hearing
- October 20: Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Legislative Hearing
- October 26: A Whole of Government Approach in Support of Service Women
- October 26: Next Steps: Examining Plans for the Continuation of the Department of Veterans Affairs Electronic Health Record Modernization Program
- October 27: Lessons Learned? Building A Culture of Patient Safety Within the Veterans Health Administration

Senate Committee on Finance

- October 20: Health Insurance Coverage in America: Current and Future Role of Federal Programs

Senate Committee on Health, Education Labor & Pensions

- September 30: Full Committee Hearing: School Reopening During COVID-19: Supporting Students, Educators, and Families

Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs

- October 20: Hearing to Consider Pending Legislation: Disability Access
October 27: Success After Service: Improving Veterans' Employment, Education, and Home Loan Opportunities