

30th National Black Nurses Day on Capitol Hill
Theme: “Ensuring Continuous Access to Health Care: NBNA’s Call to Action”
The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

On March 23, 2010, President Obama signed into law the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA or ACA). The National Black Nurses Association supports the full continuation of the Affordable Care Act and calls on the 115th Congress to continue efforts to ensure that all Americans have access to continuous quality health care, preventive services, and consumer protections.

Background:

- Provisions of the ACA have increased insurance coverage rates in the United States. Approximately 20.0 million non-elderly adult gained access to insurance coverage through early 2016. However, 26 million individuals remain uninsured (APHA, 2017).
- Research shows that the uninsured rate among African Americans would increase from 11 percent to 20 percent in 2019 if the ACA is repealed and not replaced (APHA, 2017).
- Approximately 2.5 million poor uninsured adults fall into the coverage gap that results from state decisions not to expand Medicaid, meaning their income is above current Medicaid eligibility but below the lower limit for Marketplace premium tax credits. These individuals would be eligible for Medicaid had their state chosen to expand coverage. As of November 2017, 33 states + DC have expanded Medicaid. Eighteen states have not: AL, FL, GA, ID, KS, MS, MO, NE, NC, OK, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, WI, WY (Kaiser Family Foundation, 2017).
- According to recent Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projections, the recent repeal of the health insurance mandate could reduce the number of people with health insurance by 4 million in 2019 and 13 million in 2027 (Congressional Budget Office, 2017).

Recommendations to Legislators:

- NBNA strongly urges the 115th Congress to retain and build upon the ACA and take no action to repeal and replace the ACA. NBNA urges Congress to consider the benefits of the ACA to all Americans namely provisions that prohibit denial of continuous coverage due to preexisting conditions such as cancer, diabetes, and heart disease; eliminate cost sharing for most preventive services; and, ensures health care coverage for adult children married or unmarried up to age 26.
- NBNA request that Congress support Medicaid expansion in all states.
- NBNA urges Congress to reinstitute the Health Insurance Mandate to help increase the millions of people likely to obtain health insurance.

References

American Public Health Association (2017). Why do we need the Affordable Care Act?
https://www.apha.org/~media/files/pdf/topics/aca/why_need_aca_2017.ashx

Congressional Budget Office (2017). Repealing the Individual Health insurance Mandate: An Updated Estimate. <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/115th-congress-2017-2018/reports/53300-individualmandate.pdf>

Kaiser Family Foundation (2017). Medicaid State Fact Sheets.
<https://www.kff.org/interactive/medicaid-state-fact-sheets/>

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2018 Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Reauthorization Act

NBNA request increasing funding for the Nursing Workforce Development Programs contained in Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.). NBNA recommends expanding federal appropriations to support professional nursing education and practice at all levels.

Background:

The Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII, Public Health Service Act), enacted in 1964, was created in response to a shortage of health care providers.

- Title VIII programs focus on training advanced practice nurses, increasing the number of minority and disadvantaged students enrolled in nursing programs, and enhancing nurse retention through career development and improved patient care systems.
- Title VIII programs provide the largest source of federal funding specifically for nursing education and support at all levels of nursing education from entry level through graduate studies; this also includes school loan repayments.
- Support for Title VIII programs is essential to ensure that we meet the demand for nursing and consumers receive efficient and effective health care services.

Recommendations to Legislators:

- NBNA urges the Congress to reauthorize Title VIII program through Fiscal Year 2020 (Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2017, HR 959/S. 1109).
- Expand federal appropriations that will support professional nursing education and address the need for a highly educated nursing workforce.
- For Fiscal Year 2018, NBNA along with members of the Nursing Community, a forum of 58 national nursing organizations, respectfully requested funding for each of the Nursing Workforce Development programs, authorized under Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.), with at least the levels proposed by the Senate's Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (LHHS) Appropriations Subcommittee bill totaling \$234.472 million in FY 2018.
- In addition, NBNA along with members of the Nursing Community, respectfully requested \$155.210 million in funding for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR), within the National Institutes of Health, as proposed by the Senate's LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee bill for FY 2018.

References

The Nursing Community (2018).

<https://www.thenursingcommunity.org/>

Title VIII Community Impact across the Nation: [American Association of Colleges of Nursing \(AACN\) > Policy & Advocacy > Title VIII Community Impact](#)

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Mental Health and Substance Abuse

The National Black Nurses Association (NBNA) supports the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) strategic initiatives to better meet the behavioral health care needs of individuals, communities, and service providers.⁷ Through these strategic initiatives, SAMHSA increases awareness and understanding of mental and substance use disorders while addressing the prevention of substance abuse and mental illness. They also promote emotional health and wellness; and, increases access to effective treatment while supporting recovery. SAMHSA believes it is vital to collect, report, and analyze data at both state and federal levels to ensure the nation’s behavioral system is providing the highest quality and most effective treatment. Treatment should be consistent with applying the social determinants of health such as access to health care services, socioeconomic conditions and social support, etc...

Background:

- An estimated 21 million Americans needed treatment for a serious substance abuse problem in 2015.
- Deaths from drug overdose have risen steadily over the past two decades, and have become the leading cause of death from injury in the United States with 91 Americans dying every day from an opioid overdose.
- In 2015, an estimated 43 million American adults—18 percent—met the medical standard for having a mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder that substantially interfered with or limited major life activities.
- People with a mental health issue are more likely to use alcohol or drugs than those not affected by a mental illness.
- According to a 2014 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 7.9 million people in the U.S. are dually diagnosed with both a mental and substance use disorder simultaneously. More than half are men.
- Providing prompt and effective treatment for mental health and substance use disorders will not only benefit individuals and families, but will benefit, communities and society at large. The financial cost of mental disorders was at least \$467 billion in the United States in 2012.

Recommendations for Legislators:

- NBNA requests that \$399 million dollars not be cut from the SAMHSA budget as proposed in the President’s FY 2018 budget. This would maintain funding for the Community Mental Health Services Block Grants and the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grants.
- NBNA supports current recommendations from the SAMHSA-HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions beginning with screening of all patients for health issues that include assessments and treatment for behavioral health and substance conditions.
- NBNA supports the inclusion of nurses to be trained as first responders on the use of the opioid overdose reversing drugs using funds allocated through the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016.

References – See General Resources

SAMHSA (n.d.). Prevention of Substance Abuse and Mental Illness. Retrieved November 19, 2017, from <https://www.samhsa.gov/prevention>

SAMHSA (n.d.) Strategic Initiatives. Retrieved January 4, 2018 from, <https://www.samhsa.gov/about-us/strategic-initiatives>

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Violence and Related Consequences

The National Black Nurses Association supports comprehensive efforts to reduce gun violence and its devastating effect on communities of color. NBNA calls on the 115th Congress to address gun violence as a leading public health epidemic that negatively impacts the health and well-being of all communities. Moreover, gun violence disproportionately impacts the physical, mental and social well-being of Black communities.

Background

Multifaceted and comprehensive measures are sorely needed to reverse the following outcomes:

- In 2015, gun violence was projected to surpass motor vehicle accidents as the leading cause of deaths for Americans under age 25.
- Each year 100,000 Americans fall victim to gun violence resulting in approximately 30,000 deaths and 10,000 injuries.
- While gun violence affects all communities in the United States, gun violence has a disproportionate impact on young adults, males, and racial ethnic minorities.
- Among those 10-29, homicide is the fourth leading cause of death for non-Hispanic Whites, the second leading cause of death for Hispanics and the leading cause of death for non-Hispanic Blacks.

Recommendations to Legislators

- NBNA encourages a 7-day waiting period before a semiautomatic firearm, a silencer, armor piercing ammunition, or a large capacity ammunition magazine may be transferred.
- NBNA supports current recommendations from the American Public Health Association requesting common sense measures to reduce gun violence namely but not limited to:
 - Requiring and strengthening criminal background checks for all firearm purchases, including all firearms sold at guns shows and on the internet.
 - Providing adequate and unrestricted funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other scientific agencies to research the causes of gun violence and develop prevention measures (**H.R. 1832, H.R. 3987 and S. 834**).
 - Expanding the collection and analysis of data related to gun violence and other violent deaths by increasing the funding for CDC’s National Violence Death Reporting System.

References

American Public Health Association (APHA) Gun Violence Prevention Facts

http://apha.org/~media/files/pdf/factsheets/gun_violence_prevention.ashx

Gun Violence in America Report

https://robinkelly.house.gov/sites/robinkelly.house.gov/files/wysiwyg_uploaded/KellyReport_1.pdf