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Legislative Affairs & Advocacy Update: July

by Donna Zankowski MPH RN FAAOHN, Legislative Affairs Chairperson

It has been a busy time for AAOHN advocacy efforts, and we appreciate your continued support as we champion occ & Environmental health. Here are some of our recent activities:

- We signed on to support the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act ([H.R.2531/S.1232](#)) in the 119th Congress. This bill would mandate that the Secretary of Labor issue an occupational safety and health standard that requires covered employers within the health care and social service industries to develop and implement a comprehensive workplace violence (WPV) prevention plan. AAOHN has been a long-standing supporter of OSHA developing a WPV standard.
- We signed on to support the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2025 ([H.R.3593/S.1874](#)). This legislation amends the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize funding for nursing workforce development programs for 2026 through 2030, including approved nurse practitioner programs, nurse-midwifery programs, nurse anesthesia programs, and clinical nurse specialist programs.
- We have continued to monitor funding and personnel cuts to CDC and NIOSH. Due to advocacy efforts (which AAOHN took part in) to undo the extreme cuts to NIOSH, it appears some programs have been restored, but it is unclear if any program will be fully funded or staffed to previous levels. Information on the current status of the cuts can be found here: <https://westvirginiawatch.com/2025/06/03/niosh-head-workers-back-at-black-lung-program-efforts-continue-to-restore-services-cut-by-doge/> and here: <https://www.npr.org/2025/05/14/nx-s1-5398092/niosh-reinstates-occupational-health-workers>

An issue that we are currently monitoring is the [abrupt firing of the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\)](#) panel several weeks ago. This nonpolitical panel historically met to evaluate and make recommendations to the CDC, and the CDC would usually accept the panel's recommendations (since the panel was staffed by immunization experts). Insurance companies would base coverage for immunizations on these same recommendations. A new panel with ties to the HHS Director has been assembled, and as I write this, [they are meeting](#) to make recommendations for immunizations for this fall. Depending on what they decide, [eligibility for COVID](#), Flu and other vaccinations may be limited, and insurance coverage may also be impacted. Since immunization is an important part of our practice, we will continue to monitor this issue and inform you of all of any significant changes.

Thank you for your support