

Health Policy Updates & Advocacy Priorities

1. U.S. Department of Education's proposed definition of professional degree programs, which would exclude graduate nursing programs and would not provide student loan access for nurses aspiring to advanced practice roles as Nurse Practitioners, Certified Nurse Anesthetist, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Nurse Scientists, Nurse Educators, and Certified Nurse Midwives. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) would limit the dollar amount of student loans for nurses starting July 1, 2026. to \$20,500 - \$50,000. Specifically, students earning a professional degree will be able to borrow \$50,000 annually, or \$200,000 total, while students pursuing a graduate degree will be able to borrow \$20,500 annually or \$100,000 total. Professional degree programs eligible for the higher lending amounts based on the definition of a professional degree established in [federal regulations](#), which includes several examples of degree programs including Pharmacy (Pharm.D.), Dentistry (D.D.S. or D.M.D.), Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M.), Chiropractic (D.C. or D.C.M.), Law (L.L.B. or J.D.), Medicine (M.D.), Optometry (O.D.), Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.), Podiatry (D.P.M., D.P., or Pod.D.), and Theology (M.Div., or M.H.L.).

2. The CDC voted not to recommend a dose at birth for babies of Hepatitis B-negative mothers, but to allow it under shared clinical decision-making. The CDC will review the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) secondary recommendation to consider a blood test before subsequent doses.

3. NBNA's 38th Annual Black Nurses Day on Capitol Hill is a powerful opportunity to engage in advocacy, leadership, and policy impact on a national level. Don't miss the chance to ensure our chapter is fully represented.

Register here: <https://cvent.me/n1ZEBr>

Voucher Code: HILLDAY26