



March 3, 2016

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education  
Appropriations Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education  
Appropriations Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education  
Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education  
Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairmen Cole and Blunt and Ranking Members DeLauro and Murray:

On behalf of the 53 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community coalition, we respectfully urge you to support **\$244 million for the Nursing Workforce Development programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.]) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2017**. Collectively, the Nursing Community represents over one million registered nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, nurse faculty, researchers, and students, and is committed to promoting efforts that advance the health of our nation through nursing care. As the demand for high-quality care intensifies, there must be a firm investment in the nation's largest healthcare workforce; registered nurses.

Administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration, the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs have been instrumental in bolstering and sustaining the nation's nursing pipeline for over 50 years. Title VIII programs address all aspects of the nursing workforce demand, including education, practice, recruitment, retention, and most important, increasing access to care to communities that need it most, including those in rural and underserved areas.

For example, the NURSE Corps Loan Repayment Program (LRP) and Scholarship Program (SP) provide support for students, practicing nurses, and nurse faculty who agree to serve full-time in Critical Shortage Facilities, thus helping to connect these high-quality clinicians to areas that struggle to retain health providers. In Academic Year 2014-2015, the LRP and SP collectively supported 1,178 awards. The Title VIII Nurse Education, Practice, Quality, and Retention program supported over 5,500 students last academic year, partnering with 718 clinical sites, of which 86% were located in Medically Underserved Areas.

While we understand that you are working under a challenging fiscal climate, we impress upon you the importance of supporting the health of our nation by providing \$244 million for the Title VIII Nursing

Workforce Development programs. If our organizations can be of any assistance, or if you have any questions, please contact Convener of the Nursing Community, Dr. Suzanne Miyamoto, at [Smiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu](mailto:Smiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu) or 202-463-6930, ext. 247.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses  
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing  
American Academy of Nursing  
American Assembly for Men in Nursing  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses  
American Association of Heart Failure Nurses  
American Association of Neuroscience Nurses  
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
American Association of Nurse Assessment Coordination  
American Association of Nurse Practitioners  
American Association of Occupational Health Nurses  
American College of Nurse-Midwives  
American Nephrology Nurses' Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Organization of Nurse Executives  
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association  
American Psychiatric Nurses Association  
American Society for Pain Management Nursing  
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses  
Association for Radiologic and Imaging Nursing  
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators  
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care  
Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses  
Association of Public Health Nurses  
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service  
Dermatology Nurses' Association  
Emergency Nurses Association  
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association  
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association  
Infusion Nurses Society  
International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses  
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists  
National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners  
National Association of Neonatal Nurses  
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Black Nurses Association  
National Council of State Boards of Nursing

National Gerontological Nursing Association  
National League for Nursing  
National Nursing Centers Consortium  
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties  
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Organization for Associate Degree Nursing  
Pediatric Endocrinology Nursing Society  
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association  
Public Health Nursing Section, American Public Health Association  
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates  
The Quad Council of Public Health Nursing Organizations

CC:

Representative Mike Simpson  
Representative Steve Womack  
Representative Chuck Fleischmann  
Representative Andy Harris, MD  
Representative Martha Roby  
Representative Charlie Dent  
Representative Scott Rigell  
Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Representative Barbara Lee  
Representative Chaka Fattah

Senator Jerry Moran  
Senator Richard C. Shelby  
Senator Thad Cochran  
Senator Lamar Alexander  
Senator Lindsey Graham  
Senator Mark Kirk  
Senator Bill Cassidy  
Senator Shelley Moore Capito  
Senator James Lankford  
Senator Richard J. Durbin  
Senator Jack Reed  
Senator Barbara Mikulski  
Senator Jeanne Shaheen  
Senator Jeff Merkley  
Senator Brian Schatz  
Senator Tammy Baldwin