



March 19, 2015

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 47 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.]**) and **\$150 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR, National Institutes of Health) in FY 2016**. 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 in areas that need it the most.

For example, in academic year 2013-2014, the Title VIII Advanced Nursing Education (ANE) Grants program supported 10,504 graduate nursing students. Moreover, ANE grantees partnered with 5,100 clinical training sites, of which 46% were located in medically-underserved areas and 40% were in primary care settings. Additionally, the Title VIII NURSE Corps Loan Repayment and Scholarship Program supported 1,446 students. Recipients of NURSE Corps funding commit to serving in either a Critical Shortage Facility or to teaching in an accredited school of nursing, thereby educating future generations of nurses. The federal dollars invested in Title VIII benefit not only the recipients of these programs, but

more importantly, the countless patients who receive exceptional care from the nurses these programs support.

Equally critical to building a robust nursing workforce is investing in the science that drives evidence-based nursing practice. Research projects funded through NINR are aimed at reducing burdensome chronic illness, improving quality of life, and promoting patient-centered care. From this perspective, NINR's unique focus on health promotion and disease prevention provides the cornerstone for advancing health and wellness.

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 and \$150 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research. 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 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 Occupational Health Nurses
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
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 of Community Health Nursing Educators
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses
Association of Public Health Nurses
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Dermatology Nurses' Association
Emergency Nurses Association
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association
Infusion Nurses Society

International Association of Forensic Nurses
International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Association of Hispanic Nurses
National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Neonatal Nurses
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Council of State Boards of 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
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