



February 23, 2011

Dear Senator:

The 45 undersigned members of the Nursing Community, a forum of national professional nursing associations that build consensus and advocate on a wide spectrum of healthcare and nursing issues, write to express concern over proposed funding cuts to key nursing programs in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 Continuing Resolution (CR). While we recognize and appreciate fully the arduous task Congress faces in the finalizing the FY 2011 CR, we urge lawmakers to continue supporting the programs critical to meeting the health demands of our nation, particularly those that support the nursing workforce.

The Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act) and the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) (one of the 27 institutes and centers at the National Institutes of Health) must sustain current funding levels as a cut would jeopardize the growth of the nursing workforce and nursing science. Nurses are the largest group of health professionals with a workforce that is approximately 3.1 million strong. From preventive to palliative care, acute and intensive care, chronic care management and public health, nursing expertise helps ensure Americans and their families have access to lifesaving and life-sustaining care. Additionally, the work of leading nurse researchers has contributed to interventions that improve patient outcomes and keep healthcare expenditures down.

Funding cuts to Title VIII and NINR would significantly hinder the work of the nation's most trusted professionals. Nurses will be needed to meet demand for care in the future and decreasing funding for nursing programs that build the Registered Nurse and Advanced Practice Registered Nurse workforce will limit access to care in the communities that need their services most. Moreover, given the demand for nurses, both Title VIII and NINR support the education of future nurse faculty. The current shortage of nurse faculty is a major factor that contributed to over 50,000 qualified applications being turned away from nursing schools last year.

The Nursing Community strongly believes that critical demand areas such as nursing should be protected from drastic cuts as Congress works to tackle the budget crisis. Nurses are vital providers that ensure quality care to all populations, including the most vulnerable. We appreciate your consideration of our request as you finalize the FY 2011 appropriations process.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses  
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing  
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners

American Academy of Nursing  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses  
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
American Association of Nurse Assessment Coordinators  
American College of Nurse Practitioners  
American College of Nurse-Midwives  
American Nephrology Nurses' Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Organization of Nurse Executives  
American Psychiatric Nurses Association  
American Society for Pain Management Nursing  
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses  
Asian American and Pacific Islander Nurses Association  
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators  
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care  
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses  
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses  
Association of State and Territorial Directors of Nursing  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service  
Dermatology Nurses' Association  
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association  
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association  
Infusion Nurses Society  
International Association of Forensic Nurses  
International Nurses Society on Addictions  
International Society of Psychiatric Nurses  
National American Arab Nurses Association  
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists  
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Black Nurses Association  
National Coalition of Ethnic Minority Nurse Associations  
National Nursing Centers Consortium  
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties  
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association  
Public Health Nursing Section, American Public Health Association  
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates  
Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society