



The U.S. House of Representatives Passes Critical Legislation that will Bolster the Nursing Workforce and Advance Health

October 28, 2019- The Nursing Community Coalition (NCC) applauds the U.S. House of Representatives for passing the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Act of 2019 (H.R. 728). This bipartisan legislation would help to ensure a robust and diverse nursing pipeline, especially in rural and underserved areas, by reauthorizing the Nursing Workforce Development Programs (authorized under Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 296 et. seq]).

The NCC deeply appreciates the legislation's sponsor Representative Dave Joyce (R-OH), along with the original cosponsors, Representatives Doris Matsui (D-CA), Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI), Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR), Rodney Davis (R-IL), Kathy Castor (D-FL), David McKinley (R-WV), and Lauren Underwood (D-IL) for their unwavering commitment to the nursing profession. In total, 130 bipartisan members of the House cosponsored H.R. 728, which underscores the understanding among federal legislators that health care access, cost, and quality cannot be improved without investing in the nursing workforce.

This success would not have been possible without the steadfast dedication of the House Nursing Caucus and the Co-Chairs, Representatives Dave Joyce (R-OH) and Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI), as well as, the Vice Co-Chairs, Representatives Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) and Rodney Davis (R-IL). It is through their hard work that this legislation was able to pass the House.

The NCC is energized by the House of Representatives' action and will continue to support our champions in the Senate, Senators Jeff Merkley (D-OR) and Richard Burr (R-NC), as they advance S. 1399, Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization of 2019.

The Nursing Community Coalition includes 62 national nursing organizations that are the cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the profession. Collectively, the coalition represents registered nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, nurse faculty, nurse executives, researchers, and students. The coalition is committed to promoting efforts that advance the health of our nation through nursing care.