



Testimony of the Nursing Community Coalition

Prepared for the U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Health Resources and Services Administration & National Institutes of Health
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Submitted by Rachel Stevenson, Executive Director of the Nursing Community Coalition

The Nursing Community Coalition is comprised of 62 national nursing organizations who work together to advocate and advance health care issues that impact education, research, practice, and regulation. Collectively, the Nursing Community Coalition represent Registered Nurses (RNs), Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (including Certified Nurse-Midwives, Nurse Practitioners, Clinical Nurse Specialists, and Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists), nurse executives, nursing students, faculty, and researchers, as well as other nurses with advanced degrees. The Nursing Community Coalition respectfully requests that Congress continues their strong investment in nursing education and research in Fiscal Year 2020 by supporting **\$266 million for the Nursing Workforce Development programs** (authorized under Title VIII of the *Public Health Service Act* [42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.]), administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and **\$173 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research** (NINR), one of the 27 Institutes and Centers within the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Promoting America's Health Through Nursing Care

As the largest group of health professionals, with more than four million licensed practitioners in the country, nurses are integral members of the healthcare team.¹ Nurses and other healthcare professionals work together and consistently provide high-quality patient-centered care in all communities, especially in rural and underserved areas.

Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs help meet this demand by connecting patients with care across a variety of settings, including in community health centers, hospitals, long-term care facilities, local and state health departments, schools, workplaces, and patients' homes. A prime example is through Title VIII's Advanced Nursing Education (ANE) program. In Academic Year 2016- 2017, ANE programs supported 10,537 students, including those in Advanced Education Nursing Traineeships (AENT) and Nurse Anesthetist Traineeships (NAT).²

¹ National Council of State Boards of Nursing. (2019). *Active RN Licenses: A profile of nursing licensure in the U.S. as of April 5, 2019*. Retrieved from: <https://www.ncsbn.org/6161.htm>.

² Department of Health and Human Services Fiscal Year 2019 Health Resources and Services Administration Justification of Estimates for Appropriations Committees. <https://www.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/hrsa/about/budget/budget-justification-fy2019.pdf>.

In fact, 80 percent of AENT recipients received training in primary care settings, and 75 percent of NAT recipients were trained in medically-underserved areas.³

It is imperative that we continue to promote a diverse nursing pipeline that reflects an increasingly diverse population, which bolsters positive patient outcomes. Under the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Diversity program, 4,416 students were trained in the 2016-2017 Academic Year.⁴ All of these trainees, were from underrepresented groups and/or from disadvantaged backgrounds.⁵

The Nursing Community respectfully requests \$266 million for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs in FY 2020, which include the following:

- Advanced Nursing Education Program (Sec. 811), including the Advanced Education Nursing Traineeships and Nurse Anesthetist Traineeships
- Nursing Workforce Diversity (Sec. 821)
- Nurse Education, Practice, Quality, and Retention (Sec. 831)
- NURSE Corps Loan Repayment and Scholarship Program (Sec. 846)
- Nurse Faculty Loan Program (Sec. 846A)
- Comprehensive Geriatric Education Program (Sec. 865)

Establishing Scientific Basis for Quality Patient Care:

For more than three decades, scientific endeavors funded at the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) have been essential to advancing the health of individuals, families, and communities. As one of 27 Institutes and Centers at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), NINR's research projects are aimed at reducing burdensome chronic illness, improving end of life care, and promoting patient-centered care across the life continuum. NINR's Strategic Plan includes the themes of symptom science for patients with chronic illness and pain; wellness to prevent illness across conditions, settings, and the lifespan; patient self-management to improve quality of life; and end-of-life and palliative care science.⁶ From disease prevention and global health, to precision medicine and genomic studies, NINR is at the forefront of nursing science

³ Department of Health and Human Services Fiscal Year 2019 Health Resources and Services Administration Justification of Estimates for Appropriations Committees.

<https://www.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/hrsa/about/budget/budget-justification-fy2019.pdf>.

⁴ Department of Health and Human Services Fiscal Year 2019 Health Resources and Services Administration Justification of Estimates for Appropriations Committees.

<https://www.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/hrsa/about/budget/budget-justification-fy2019.pdf>.

⁵ Department of Health and Human Services Fiscal Year 2019 Health Resources and Services Administration Justification of Estimates for Appropriations Committees.

<https://www.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/hrsa/about/budget/budget-justification-fy2019.pdf>.

⁶ National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Nursing Research. *The NINR Strategic Plan: Advancing Science, Improving Lives*. Retrieved from

https://www.ninr.nih.gov/sites/www.ninr.nih.gov/files/NINR_StratPlan2016_reduced.pdf.

and research and training new nurse scientists to sustain the longevity and success of this important endeavor.

The Nursing Community respectfully requests \$173 million for the NINR in FY 2020.

We must continue to invest in the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs and NINR to strengthen the foundational care nurses provide daily in communities across the country. Thank you for your support of these crucial programs.

59 Members of the Nursing Community Coalition Submitting this Testimony

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners
American Academy of 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 Practitioners
American Association of Post-Acute Care Nursing
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Nephrology Nurses Association
American Nurses Association
American Nursing Informatics Association
American Organization for Nursing Leadership
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association, Inc.
American Public Health Association, Public Health Nursing Section
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 Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses
Association of Public Health Nurses
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
Association of Veterans Affairs Nurse Anesthetists
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Incorporated
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service
Dermatology Nurses' Association
Emergency Nurses Association
Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research
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 Neonatal Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Neonatal Nurses
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of School Nurses
National Black Nurses Association
National Council of State Boards of Nursing
National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers
National League for Nursing
National Nurse-Led Care 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
Society of Pediatric Nurses
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates
Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society