



### COVID-19 Stimulus Legislation Signed into Law

March 27, 2020 – The Nursing Community Coalition (NCC), which is made up of 63 national nursing organizations, commends Congress and the Administration for their quick and decisive action to pass and sign into law, H.R. 748 – the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. H.R. 748 is the third COVID-19 legislation that has been passed and provides more than \$2 trillion to combat the novel coronavirus and support Americans during this time. Collectively, the NCC represents the more than four million registered nurses (RNs), advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) (including certified nurse-midwives, nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, and certified registered nurse anesthetists), nurse leaders, nursing students, faculty, and researchers that have been on the front lines during this public health crisis. The NCC recognizes the immense needs of our nursing workforce as they combat COVID-19 and are proud to see a number of our [shared priorities](#) incorporated into this legislation, including:

- **Ensuring Safety for our Patients and Nurses:** The NCC’s number one priority is safeguarding the health and safety of our nurses, healthcare workforce, and the patients they serve. The CARES Act supports this effort by providing \$16 billion to the Strategic National Stockpile to purchase medical supplies, such as personal protective equipment (PPE).
- **Reauthorizing the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs:** The NCC recognizes the need to support our nurses today and to ensure a robust nursing pipeline for the future. By reauthorizing the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs in H.R. 748, we can continue to meet the nation’s demand for nursing services by addressing all aspects of nursing education, practice, recruitment, and retention.
- **Authorizing NPs and CNSs to certify home health care services:** The CARES Act removes the Medicare prohibition on NPs and CNSs from certifying Medicare patients for home health benefits, which will not only open hospital beds for patients with COVID-19 and other critical care patients, but also allow the beneficiary to remain in their home and decrease potential exposure to the virus or other complications from delays in care.
- **Strengthening the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps:** The NCC recognizes how essential the U.S. Public Health Service is to ensuring the health and wellbeing of all Americans. H.R. 748 authorizes a Ready Reserve Corps that would be used to respond to public emergencies, such as natural disasters and public health crises like COVID-19.

In addition, the CARES Act supports our veterans and healthcare providers who continue to assist the nation, their state and localities, and our health care system during times of emergencies, by providing \$19.6 billion to the Department of Veteran’s Affairs mission and indispensable work. The NCC is also pleased to see \$100 billion in funding for hospitals and health care providers, as well as resources for telehealth and rural health, among other health care provisions.

COVID-19 is transforming our society and the health care system. While we celebrate that these crucial priorities are included in the CARES Act, we are aware that additional resources and support will be needed for our nurses and patients across the country. The Nursing Community Coalition remains committed to working with our members, Congress, and the Administration to communicate those needs and continue our solidarity in combating COVID-19.

For more information on the coronavirus, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [website](#) and follow [@RN\\_Community](#) on twitter for breaking news and further updates.

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*The Nursing Community Coalition includes 63 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.*