

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 24, 2020

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Subcommittee of Labor, HHS,
Education and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee of Labor, HHS
Education and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

We respectfully request that the Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act, administered by HRSA) receive \$278 million in Fiscal Year 2021 through the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies appropriations bill. As we celebrate the Year of the Nurse and the Midwife it is imperative to remember that an investment in our nursing workforce today is a commitment to America's health care now and into the future.

Now, more than ever, it is essential that communities across the nation have access to safe, high-quality nursing care. For over five decades, the Title VIII programs have been helping to train our nation's nursing workforce. The programs bolster nursing education at all levels, from entry-level preparation through graduate study, and support academic institutions and the nurse faculty who prepare today's nursing students to be tomorrow's expert clinicians.

Title VIII Nursing Workforce and Development Programs connect patients with nursing care across a variety of settings, including community health centers, hospitals, and schools of nursing. For example, in Academic Year 2018-2019 the Title VIII Advanced Nurse Education and Advanced Nursing education Workforce Programs supported more than 9,100 students. In fact, Advanced Nursing Education grantees partnered with 1,193 training sites, of which 62 percent were in primary care settings, and 78 percent of Nurse Anesthetist Traineeships program recipients received clinical training in medically-underserved areas.

Title VIII programs also aim to promote a diverse nursing workforce to reflect an increasingly diverse patient population. In Academic Year 2018-2019, the Nursing Workforce Diversity program supported 11,067 nursing students to promote the recruitment of individuals from racial and ethnic minorities underrepresented in registered nursing. Furthermore, these grantees partnered with 789 training sites to provide 7,371 clinical training experiences.

We sincerely appreciate your consideration of our request and understand the difficult decisions your Subcommittee will face in this fiscal climate. However, support for Title VIII Nursing

Workforce Development Programs is a direct investment in the nursing workforce, our nation's well-being, and the sustainability of our health care system.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jeffrey A. Merkley

Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

/s/ Catherine Cortez Masto

Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator

/s/ Amy Klobuchar

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

/s/ Mazie K. Hirono

Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

/s/ Sherrod Brown

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

/s/ Dianne Feinstein

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

/s/ Cory A. Booker

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

/s/ Bernard Sanders

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

/s/ Kirsten Gillibrand

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

/s/ Kamala D. Harris

Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator

/s/ Michael F. Bennet

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

/s/ Richard Blumenthal

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

/s/ Tammy Duckworth

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

/s/ Chris Van Hollen

Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

/s/ Elizabeth Warren

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

/s/ Robert P. Casey, Jr.

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

/s/ Christopher S. Murphy

Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator

/s/ Edward J. Markey

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

/s/ Christopher A. Coons

Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator

/s/ Maria Cantwell

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

/s/ Kyrsten Sinema

Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator

/s/ Jon Tester

Jon Tester
United States Senator

/s/ Angus S. King, Jr.

Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

/s/ Jack Reed

Jack Reed
United States Senator

/s/ Debbie Stabenow

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

/s/ Tina Smith

Tina Smith
United States Senator

/s/ Gary C. Peters

Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

/s/ Brian Schatz

Brian Schatz
United States Senator

/s/ Robert Menendez

Robert Menendez
United States Senator

/s/ Joe Manchin III

Joe Manchin III
United States Senator

/s/ Tim Kaine

Tim Kaine
United States Senator

/s/ Doug Jones

Doug Jones
United States Senator

/s/ Martin Heinrich

Martin Heinrich
United States Senator

/s/ Tammy Baldwin

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

/s/ Margaret Wood Hassan

Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

/s/ Sheldon Whitehouse

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

/s/ Jacky Rosen

Jacky Rosen
United States Senator

/s/ Benjamin L. Cardin

Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

/s/ Jeanne Shaheen

Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

/s/ Ron Wyden

Ron Wyden
United States Senator