



September 9, 2010

Representative David Obey
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and
Education
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Tom Harkin
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and
Education
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Obey and Chairman Harkin:

On behalf of the Nursing Community, a forum of professional nursing organizations representing over 850,000 Registered Nurses (RNs), Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), nurse faculty, students, and researchers, the 45 undersigned organizations are writing to express our appreciation for the level of funding provided to the Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII, Public Health Service Act) in the respective House and Senate FY 2011 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bills.

Your Subcommittee's investment of \$292 million for nursing education illustrates support for and recognition of the fundamental role nurses play in our nation's healthcare system. RNs and APRNs are vital to ensuring direct availability to high quality, cost-effective health care. At a time when nearly 30 million individuals will soon have access to health insurance as a result of the health reform law, RNs and APRNs will be in great demand in all areas of our nation. Significantly increasing the level of funding for nursing education will benefit future RNs and APRNs, but also the American public at large.

We recognize the magnitude this funding will have on the growth of the nursing workforce and thank you for your foresight to provide such a strong investment. The Nursing Community stands ready to offer our support and assistance to ensure that this level of funding is enacted during the FY 2011 appropriations process.

We thank you in advance for your continued support of the Nursing Workforce Development programs. Please let us know how we can be of any assistance as the appropriations process moves forward.

Sincerely,

AANAC
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 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
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators
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 Nursing
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
National Student Nurses' Association, Inc.
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
Visiting Nurse Associations of America
Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society