August 24, 2018

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
313 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Merkley,

On behalf of the Nursing Community Coalition, we would like to thank you for offering the amendment to increase funding for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs by $17 million in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (LHHS-ED) and Defense spending package (HR. 6157). Your commitment and dedication to support healthcare through nursing education is deeply appreciated.

The members of the Nursing Community Coalition are the cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the profession and are committed to promoting efforts that advance the health of our nation. With over four million licensed Registered Nurses, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), and nursing students, the Coalition shares your drive and passion to continually improve care for patients, families, and communities. The Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs are instrumental in bolstering and sustaining the nation’s nursing pipeline. These programs address all aspects of nursing workforce demand, including education, practice, recruitment, and retention. Most importantly, these programs increase access to care for the patients and communities that need it most by providing grants to nurses serving in rural and medically underserved areas.

Again, we commend your amendment to increase funding for these vital programs and we value your continued support of America’s nurses. If the Nursing Community Coalition can be of any assistance to you please do not hesitate to contact the Coalition’s Executive Director, Dr. Suzanne Miyamoto, at smiyamoto@aacnnursing.org or 202-463-6930.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
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 Assessment Coordination
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American College of Nurse-Midwives

Promoting America’s Health Through Nursing Care

www.thenursingcommunity.org · 202-463-6930 ext. 272
Society of Pediatric Nurses
Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society

CC:
The Honorable Tammy Duckworth
The Honorable Cory Booker
The Honorable Bob Menendez
The Honorable Tim Kaine
The Honorable Chris Van Hollen