



September 7, 2018

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Shelby and Frelinghuysen, Vice Chairman Leahy, and Ranking Member Lowey:

As you work to finalize the final Labor, Health and Human Services, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2019, the 51 undersigned members of the Nursing Community Coalition ask that you support at least the Senate's recommended levels of **\$249.472 million for the Nursing Workforce Development programs** (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.]) **and \$163.076 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research** (NINR, one of the 27 Institutes and Centers within the National Institutes of Health). We thank you for recognizing how essential these programs are in sustaining valuable nursing research and safeguarding the health of our nation.

Collectively, the Nursing Community Coalition represents over one million registered nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, nurse faculty, researchers, and students. The coalition is committed to promoting efforts that advance the health of our nation through nursing care. As the demand for high-quality care intensifies, there must be a firm investment in the nation's largest healthcare workforce—registered nurses.

Administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration, the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs are instrumental in bolstering and sustaining the nation's nursing pipeline. This pipeline is imperative as the demand for nurses is projected to increase 28% by the year 2030, and at a time when nurses are retiring at an unprecedented rate.^{1,2} Title VIII programs address all aspects of the nursing workforce demand, including: education, practice, recruitment, retention, and most importantly, increasing access to care to communities that need it most, such as those in rural and underserved areas. It is critically important that these programs, especially the Advanced Nursing

¹ Health Resources and Services Administration. (2017). Supply and Demand Projections of the Nursing Workforce: 2014-2030. Retrieved from: https://bhwh.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/bhwh/nchwa/projections/NCHWA_HRSA_Nursing_Report.pdf?utm_campaign=enews08172017&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery.

² "Since 2012, roughly 60,000 RNs have exited the workforce each year, and by the end of the decade, more than 70,000 will be retiring annually." Buerhaus, Peter, Lucy Skinner, David Auerbach, and Douglas Staiger. (2017). "Four Challenges Facing the Nursing Workforce in the United States." *Journal of Nursing Regulation*. Volume 8, Issue 2, pp. 40-46.

Education (ANE) programs for which the House FY 2019 appropriations package proposes an \$8 million cut, continue to receive this vital funding. The ANE programs ensure primary and specialty care reach those areas with critical workforce shortages.

For 30 years, scientific endeavors funded through NINR have been integral to advancing the health of individuals, families, and communities. True to NINR's mission, research projects funded through this institute are aimed at reducing burdensome chronic illness, improving end of life care, and promoting patient-centered care across the life continuum. Additionally, NINR funded-research continues to make advancements in genomics, precision medicine, and team science.

We want to impress upon you the importance of supporting the future health of our nation by providing the Senate levels for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs and the National Institute of Nursing Research in FY 2019. If our organizations can be of any assistance, or if you have any questions, please contact the Nursing Community Coalition's Executive Director, Dr. Suzanne Miyamoto, at Smiyamoto@aacnnursing.org or at 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 Nurse Anesthetists
American Association of Nurse Assessment Coordination
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Nephrology Nurses Association
American Nurses Association
American Nursing Informatics Association
American Organization of Nurse Executives
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association
American Public Health Association, Public Health Nursing Section
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Society for Pain Management Nursing
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
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
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 Hispanic Nurses
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 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
Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society

CC:

The Honorable Roy Blunt
The Honorable Lindsey Graham
The Honorable Jerry Moran
The Honorable Patty Murray
The Honorable Dick Durbin
The Honorable Harold Rogers
The Honorable Robert Aderholt
The Honorable Kay Granger
The Honorable Ken Calvert
The Honorable Tom Cole
The Honorable Steve Womack
The Honorable Martha Roby
The Honorable Peter Visclosky
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
The Honorable Betty McCollum