



## ***Congressional Requests to Promote the Health of Americans and Increase Access to Care***

1. FY 2018 Appropriations Request: Fund Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs at \$244 million and \$160 million for the National Institute for Nursing Research
2. Support the Reauthorization of Title VIII Workforce Development Act of 2017
3. Support the Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act of 2017
4. Join the Nursing Caucus

### ***Request 1: Fund:***

- ***\$244 million for Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs***

Investing in the pipeline of registered and advanced practice registered nurses is critical to ensuring Americans have access to health care. Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs strengthen nursing education and fund institutions educating nurses to practice in rural and medically underserved communities. These programs also help increase retention of the nursing workforce through loan forgiveness programs for clinical nurses and faculty providing clinical nursing education. In 2014-2015, the Title VIII Advanced Nursing Education Grants supported more than 9,000 graduate nursing students and partnered with more than 4,200 clinical training sites, 45 percent of which were located in underserved areas and 46 percent provided primary care.

- ***\$160 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)***

As part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the NINR funds research, which establishes the scientific basis for quality patient care. NINR-supported nurse scientists are advancing discoveries in genetic research, leading team science and promoting precision health initiatives. Research projects funded through NINR are aimed at reducing burdensome chronic illness, improving quality of life, and promoting patient-centered care. Additionally, nurse scientists lead complex studies focused on health promotion and disease prevention.

### ***Request 2: Support Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2017***

***H.R. 959 Sponsors:*** Rep. David Joyce (R-Ohio) and [28 co-sponsors](#)

The Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act is vital for the sustainability of America's health as it would ensure that Nursing Workforce Development programs have a current federal authorization necessary for funding in future fiscal years. Additionally, the reauthorization includes four technical changes that are in line with current nursing roles and practices. These programs bolster nursing education at all levels, support nurses in the workforce, and provide support for schools that educate the future nurses who are essential to ensuring that the demand for nursing care is met.

### ***Request 3: Support the Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act of 2017***

***H.R. 1825 Sponsors:*** Representatives Chris Collins (R-N.Y.), Trent Kelly (R-Miss.), Patrick Tiberi (R-Ohio), Gregg Harper (R-Miss.), Patrick Meehan (R-Pa.), Ron Kind (D-Wisc.) and Jan Schakowsky (D-Ill.)

Advanced practice registered nurses (APRN) and physician assistants (PA) are recognized as authorized Medicare providers and are able to certify patient eligibility for nursing home care; however, current law precludes these same practitioners from certifying patient eligibility for home health care services. As a result, APRNs and PAs are required to find a physician to certify eligibility. This unnecessary barrier can result in an extended hospital stay or nursing home admission because the patient could not return or remain at home without home health care services.

***Request 4: Join the Nursing Caucus***

The bipartisan House Nursing Caucus educates legislators on issues impacting the profession and how nurses are transforming America's health. To join, please contact Rep. David Joyce (R-Ohio) at [Anna.Alburger@mail.house.gov](mailto:Anna.Alburger@mail.house.gov) or Rep. Tulsi Gabbard's (D-Hawaii) at [Dave.Chun@mail.house.gov](mailto:Dave.Chun@mail.house.gov).

***Contact Information***

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