



March 3, 2016

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairmen Cole and Blunt and Ranking Members DeLauro and Murray:

On behalf of the 53 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community coalition, we respectfully urge you to support **\$244 million for the Nursing Workforce Development programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.]) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2017**. Collectively, the Nursing Community represents over one million registered nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, nurse faculty, researchers, and students, and 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 have been instrumental in bolstering and sustaining the nation's nursing pipeline for over 50 years. Title VIII programs address all aspects of the nursing workforce demand, including education, practice, recruitment, retention, and most important, increasing access to care to communities that need it most, including those in rural and underserved areas.

For example, the NURSE Corps Loan Repayment Program (LRP) and Scholarship Program (SP) provide support for students, practicing nurses, and nurse faculty who agree to serve full-time in Critical Shortage Facilities, thus helping to connect these high-quality clinicians to areas that struggle to retain health providers. In Academic Year 2014-2015, the LRP and SP collectively supported 1,178 awards. The Title VIII Nurse Education, Practice, Quality, and Retention program supported over 5,500 students last academic year, partnering with 718 clinical sites, of which 86% were located in Medically Underserved Areas.

While we understand that you are working under a challenging fiscal climate, we impress upon you the importance of supporting the health of our nation by providing \$244 million for the Title VIII Nursing

Workforce Development programs. If our organizations can be of any assistance, or if you have any questions, please contact Convener of the Nursing Community, Dr. Suzanne Miyamoto, at Smiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu or 202-463-6930, ext. 247.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
American Academy of Nursing
American Assembly for Men in 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 Association of Occupational Health Nurses
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Nephrology Nurses' Association
American Nurses Association
American Organization of Nurse Executives
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Society for Pain Management Nursing
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
Association for Radiologic and Imaging Nursing
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses
Association of Public Health Nurses
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service
Dermatology Nurses' Association
Emergency Nurses Association
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association
Infusion Nurses Society
International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
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 Black Nurses Association
National Council of State Boards of Nursing

National Gerontological Nursing Association
National League for Nursing
National Nursing Centers 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
Public Health Nursing Section, American Public Health Association
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates
The Quad Council of Public Health Nursing Organizations

CC:

Representative Mike Simpson
Representative Steve Womack
Representative Chuck Fleischmann
Representative Andy Harris, MD
Representative Martha Roby
Representative Charlie Dent
Representative Scott Rigell
Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard
Representative Barbara Lee
Representative Chaka Fattah

Senator Jerry Moran
Senator Richard C. Shelby
Senator Thad Cochran
Senator Lamar Alexander
Senator Lindsey Graham
Senator Mark Kirk
Senator Bill Cassidy
Senator Shelley Moore Capito
Senator James Lankford
Senator Richard J. Durbin
Senator Jack Reed
Senator Barbara Mikulski
Senator Jeanne Shaheen
Senator Jeff Merkley
Senator Brian Schatz
Senator Tammy Baldwin