October 5, 2009

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman
Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Todd Tiahrt
Ranking Minority Member
Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Minority Member
Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Obey, Chairman Harkin and Senator Cochran and Representative Tiahrt:

On behalf of the 50 undersigned organizations representing over 858,000 nurses and nursing students, we would like to thank you for providing the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs a significant increase during the FY 2010 Labor, Health and Human Services (LHHS), Education and Related Agencies appropriations process. This funding boost will ease the intensity of the nursing and nurse faculty shortages. However, as you are well aware, the nursing shortage has plagued the healthcare system for over a decade and dynamic strides must be taken to reverse the negative impact it has made on access to quality healthcare. Therefore, as you negotiate the final LHHS appropriations bill, we respectfully request the highest possible funding level for each of the Title VIII programs provided in the House and Senate LHHS Appropriations bills as outlined below.

- Advanced Education Nursing Program: $64.44 million (House and Senate)
- Nursing Workforce Diversity Program: $16.11 million (House and Senate)
- Nurse Education Practice and Retention Program: $42.5 million (Senate)
- Loan Repayment and Scholarship Program: $125 million (House)
- Nurse Faculty Loan Program: $25 million (Senate)
- Comprehensive Geriatric Education Program: $4.57 million (House and Senate)
For 45 years, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) and Registered Nurses (RNs) have relied upon support through Title VIII to complete their preparation and offset considerable educational expenses. The overall mission of the Title VIII programs focuses on preparing an APRN and RN workforce that can provide exceptional care to those in rural and medically underserved areas. **In the most basic terms, Title VIII helps to ensure that patients who desperately need access to health services receive quality nursing care.** At a time when our nation looks toward expanding access to quality healthcare providers, the Title VIII programs are critical to this success.

By providing the highest possible funding level for the authorities under Title VIII, these important programs will have improved resources to address the multiple factors contributing to the nationwide nursing shortage, including the shortage of faculty. We thank you in advance for consideration of this request.

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 Midwives
American College of Nurse Practitioners
American Nephrology Nurses' Association
American Nurses Association
American Organization of Nurse Executives
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
Asian American and Pacific Islander Nurses Association
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
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 Society of Nurses in Genetics
International Society of Psychiatric Nursing
National American Arab Nurses Association
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 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
Philippine Nurses Association of America, Inc
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
Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society