



**Testimony of the Nursing Community Regarding  
Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Appropriations for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs,  
the National Institute of Nursing Research, and Nurse-Managed Health Clinics**

**U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and  
Related Agencies**

**Department of Health and Human Services**

**March 15, 2013**

*Submitted by Suzanne Miyamoto, Convener of the Nursing Community*

The Nursing Community is a forum comprised of 57 national professional nursing membership associations that builds consensus and advocates on a wide spectrum of healthcare and nursing issues surrounding practice, education, and research. These 57 organizations are committed to promoting America's health through the advancement of the nursing profession. Collectively, the Nursing Community represents nearly one million Registered Nurses (RNs), Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs-including certified nurse-midwives, nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, and certified registered nurse anesthetists), nurse executives, nursing students, nursing faculty, and nurse researchers. For FY 2014, our organizations respectfully request \$251 million for the Health Resources and Services Administration's Nursing Workforce Development programs (authorized under Title VIII of the *Public Health Service Act* [42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.]), \$150 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) within the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and \$20 million in authorized funding for the Nurse-Managed Health Clinics (Title III of the *Public Health Service Act*). These investments will help ensure that our nation's population receives the highest-quality nursing services possible.

## **Demand for Nurses Continues to Grow**

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' *Employment Projections for 2010-2020*, the expected number of practicing nurses will grow from 2.74 million in 2010 to 3.45 million in 2020, an increase of 712,000 or 26%. The projections further explain the need for 495,500 replacements in the nursing workforce, bringing the total number of job openings for nurses due to growth and replacements to 1.2 million by 2020.

Two primary factors contribute to this overwhelming projection. First, America's nursing workforce is aging. According to the *2008 National Sample Survey of Registered Nurses*, over one million of the nation's 2.6 million practicing RNs are over the age of 50. Within this population, more than 275,000 nurses are over the age of 60. As the economy continues to rebound, many of these nurses will seek retirement, leaving behind a significant deficit in the number of experienced nurses in the workforce. Secondly, America's Baby Boomer population is aging. It is estimated that over 80 million Baby Boomers reached age 65 last year. This population will require a vast influx of nursing services, particularly in areas of primary care and chronic illness management. A significant investment must be made in the education of new nurses to provide the nation with the nursing services it demands.

## **Addressing the Demand: Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs**

For nearly 50 years, the Nursing Workforce Development programs, authorized under Title VIII of the *Public Health Service Act*, have helped build the supply and distribution of qualified nurses to meet our nation's healthcare needs. The Title VIII programs bolster nursing education at all levels, from entry-level preparation through graduate study, and provide support for institutions that educate nurses for practice in rural and medically underserved communities. Today, the Title VIII programs are essential to ensure the demand for nursing care is met. Between FY 2005 and 2010 alone, the Title VIII programs supported over 400,000 nurses and nursing students as well as numerous academic nursing institutions, and healthcare facilities.

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing's (AACN) *Title VIII Student Recipient Survey* gathers information about Title VIII dollars and its impact on nursing students. The 2012-2013 survey, which included responses from over 1,100 students, stated that the Title VIII programs played a critical role in funding their nursing education. The survey showed that 74% of the students receiving Title VIII funding are attending school full-time. By supporting full-time students, the Title VIII programs are helping to ensure that students enter the workforce without delay.

The Title VIII programs also address the need for more nurse faculty. Data from AACN's 2012-2013 enrollment and graduations survey show that nursing schools were forced to turn away 79,659 qualified applications from entry-level baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs in 2012, and faculty vacancy was a primary reason. The Title VIII Nurse Faculty Loan Program aids in increasing nursing school enrollment capacity by supporting students pursuing graduate education provided they serve as faculty for four years after graduation.

***The Nursing Community respectfully requests \$251 million for the Nursing Workforce Development programs authorized under Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act in FY 2014.***

While we recognize the reality of sequestration and the need to continue to cut the federal deficit, we also firmly believe this request is necessary given the demand for nursing services is steadily on the rise.

### **National Institute of Nursing Research: Foundation for Evidence-Based Care**

As one of the 27 Institutes and Centers at the NIH, the NINR funds research that lays the groundwork for evidence-based nursing practice. Nurse-scientists at NINR examine ways to improve care models to deliver safe, high-quality, and cost-effective health services to the nation. Our country must look toward the prevention aspect of health care as the vehicle for saving our system from further financial burden, and the work of NINR embraces this endeavor through research related to care management of patients during

illness and recovery, reduction of risks for disease and disability, promotion of healthy lifestyles, enhancement of quality of life for those with chronic illness, and care for individuals at the end of life.

Moreover, NINR helps to provide needed faculty to support the education of future generations of nurses. Training programs at NINR develop future nurse-researchers, many of whom also serve as faculty in our nation's nursing schools. ***The Nursing Community respectfully requests \$150 million for the NINR in FY 2014.***

### **Nurse-Managed Health Clinics: Expanding Access to Care**

NMHCs are healthcare delivery sites managed by APRNs and are staffed by an interdisciplinary health provider team which may include physicians, social workers, public health nurses, and therapists. These clinics are often associated with a school, college, university, department of nursing, federally qualified health center, or independent nonprofit healthcare agency. NMHCs serve as critical access points to keep patients out of the emergency room, saving the healthcare system millions of dollars annually.

NMHCs provide care to patients in medically underserved regions of the country, including rural communities, Native American reservations, senior citizen centers, elementary schools, and urban housing developments. The populations within these communities are the most vulnerable to chronic illnesses that create heavy financial burden on patients and the healthcare system. NMHCs aim to reduce the prevalence of disease and create healthier communities by providing primary care services and educating patients on health promotion practices. Furthermore, NMHCs serve as clinical education training sites for nursing students and other health professionals, a crucial aspect of NMHCs given that a lack of training sites is commonly identified as a barrier to nursing school enrollment. ***The Nursing Community respectfully requests \$20 million for the Nurse-Managed Health Clinics authorized under Title III of the Public Health Service Act in FY 2014.***

Without a workforce of well-educated nurses providing evidence-based care to those who need it most, including our growing aging population, the healthcare system is not sustainable. The Nursing Community's request of \$251 million for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs, \$150 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research, and \$20 million for Nurse-Managed Health Clinics in FY 2014 will help ensure access to quality care provided by America's nursing workforce.

### **Members of the Nursing Community Submitting this Testimony**

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses	Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association
American Academy of Nursing	Infusion Nurses Society
American Assembly for Men in Nursing	International Association of Forensic Nurses
American Association of Colleges of Nursing	International Nurses Society on Addictions
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists	International Society of Psychiatric Nursing
American Association of Nurse Practitioners	National American Arab Nurses Association
American College of Nurse-Midwives	National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners
American Nephrology Nurses' Association	National Association of Neonatal Nurses
American Nurses Association	National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
American Organization of Nurse Executives	National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
American Psychiatric Nurses Association	National Black Nurses Association
American Society for Pain Management Nursing	National Nursing Centers Consortium
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses	National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators	National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses	Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs
Association of Public Health Nurses	Oncology Nursing Society
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses	Pediatric Endocrinology Nursing Society
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses	Public Health Nursing Section, American Public Health Association
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service	Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates
Dermatology Nurses' Association	Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association	