May 22, 2017

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

Dear Chairmen Cochran and Blunt, Vice Chairman Leahy, and Ranking Member Murray:

On behalf of the 58 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community coalition, we would like to thank you for your dedication to the nursing profession by protecting funding for the Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII, Public Health Service Act) at $244 million for FY 2017 and increasing funding for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) to $150.273 million. We appreciate the unwavering bipartisan support for these programs in an uncertain fiscal climate.

Collectively, the Nursing Community represents 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.

Support for Title VIII programs directly contributes to the health and wellness of America by ensuring that the future pipeline of nurses is able to meet our nation’s most pressing healthcare demands. This is further advanced by funding the scientific endeavors through NINR research that have been integral to advancing the health of individuals, families, and communities.

We applaud the efforts you and the Subcommittee have made in making America’s health a top priority by supporting the nursing workforce and the research that drives their practice. We continue to look forward to working with you and your staff as the FY 2018 appropriations process
continues this Congress. 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@aac.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 Public Health Association, Public Health Nursing Section
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 Veterans Affairs Nurse Anesthetists
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 Association of Forensic Nurses
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 Association of School Nurses
National Black Nurses Association
National Council of State Boards of Nursing
National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers
National Gerontological Nursing Association
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
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates
Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society

cc:
Committee on Appropriations:
  Mitch McConnell
  Richard Shelby
  Lamar Alexander
  Susan Collins
  Lisa Murkowski
  Lindsey Graham
  Roy Blunt
  Jerry Moran
  John Hoeven
  John Boozman
  Shelly Moore Capito
  James Lankford
  Steve Daines
  John Neely Kennedy
  Marco Rubio

  Patty Murray
  Dianne Feinstein
  Dick Durbin
  Jack Reed
  Jon Tester
  Tom Udall
  Jeanne Shaheen
  Jeff Merkley
  Chris Coons
  Brian Schatz
  Tammy Baldwin
  Chris Murphy
  Joe Manchin
  Chris Van Hollen

Subcommittee on LHHS-Education:
  Thad Cochran
  Richard Shelby
  Lamar Alexander
  Lindsey Graham
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  James Lankford
  John Neely Kennedy
  Marco Rubio

  Dick Durbin
  Jack Reed
  Jeanne Shaheen
  Jeff Merkley
  Brian Schatz
  Tammy Baldwin
  Chris Murphy
  Joe Manchin