



June 8, 2012

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education
156 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Shelby:

As you begin your work to mark-up the Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill, the 50 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community would like to reiterate the importance of funding for nursing education, research, and practice. Specifically, we urge you to provide \$251 million for the Nursing Workforce Development programs (Title VIII of the *Public Health Service Act*), \$150 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR), and \$20 million for the Nurse-Managed Health Clinics (NMHCs) (Title III of the *Public Health Service Act*) grants.

The contributions made by the practice and science of nursing are significant, and in collaboration with other health professionals, improve the quality of America's healthcare system. According to the 2012 Bureau of Labor Statistics' *Employment Projections 2010-2020*, the expected number of Registered Nurses (RNs) that will be needed in the workforce will grow to 1.2 million by 2020.¹ Strong support for the Title VIII programs, NINR, and the Nurse-Managed Health Clinics will ensure a robust nursing workforce that continues to provide high-quality, cost-effective care across the country.

A solid federal investment in the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs will help bolster the number of nurses entering into and remaining in the workforce. For nearly 50 years, the Title VIII programs, administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration, has supported the recruitment, education, and retention of RNs and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs). These programs are specifically tailored to address the demand for nurses and nurse faculty, particularly in medically underserved areas, and will require enhanced funding to adequately meet the needs of our nation.

Evidence-based research that drives improvement in disease reduction and preventive health initiatives lies at the heart of nursing science at NINR. Over the last 25 years, NINR's research goals have promoted healthy practices to improve the lives of Americans while reducing healthcare system costs in the long run. Additionally, NINR allocates a generous portion of its budget to training future generations of nurse scientists who often serve as faculty in our nation's nursing schools. Improving the investment in nursing science through NINR will help spur innovation to advance care practices within our healthcare system and translate evidence-based research into nursing practice.

¹ Bureau of Labor Statistic. (2012). *Employment Projections 2010-2020*. Accessed March 5, 2012 from <http://bls.gov/news.release/ecopro.nr0.htm>

Finally, access to high quality, cost-effective primary care is in demand in every community throughout the United States, and particularly in rural and urban areas. NMHCs are a unique solution to this crisis as they provide primary care, health promotion, and disease prevention to individuals with limited access to care. Moreover, NMHCs are managed by APRNs and staffed by an interdisciplinary team of healthcare providers, which may include physicians, social workers, public health nurses, and therapists. The care provided in these sites directly contributes to positive health outcomes and savings in the long term.

We understand Congress faces difficult decisions to reduce the federal deficit. However, without an adequate supply of nurses, the science to support their work, and the safety net services they provide the nation's healthcare system is not sustainable. We thank you in advance for your consideration of our FY 2013 requests of \$251 million for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs, \$150 million for NINR, and \$20 million for Nurse-Managed Health Clinics. If you have any questions, please contact Suzanne Miyamoto at smiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
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 Nurse Anesthetists
American College of Nurse Practitioners
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Holistic Nurses Association
American Nephrology Nurses' Association
American Nurses Association
American Organization of Nurse Executives
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Society for Pain Management Nursing
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
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 Nurses Society on Addictions
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 Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Black Nurses Association
National Coalition of Ethnic Minority Nurse Associations
National Gerontological Nursing Association
National Nursing Centers Consortium
National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs
Oncology Nursing Society
Pediatric Endocrinology Nursing Society
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Public Health Nursing Section, American Public Health Association
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates
Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society

Cc:

Senator Daniel Inouye
Senator Herb Kohl
Senator Patty Murray
Senator Mary Landrieu
Senator Richard Durbin
Senator Jack Reed
Senator Mark Pryor
Senator Barbara Mikulski
Senator Sherrod Brown
Senator Thad Cochran
Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison
Senator Lamar Alexander
Senator Ron Johnson
Senator Mark Kirk
Senator Lindsey Graham
Senator Jerry Moran