April 22, 2024

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chair Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies Services, Education, and Related Agencies
United States Senate United States House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510 Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies Services, Education, and Related Agencies
United States Senate United States House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Baldwin, Chair Aderholt, Ranking Member Capito, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

On behalf of the 57 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC), we respectfully request your support of at least $530 million for Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.]) and at least $210 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR, National Institutes of Health) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025. As Congress continues to consider policies to ensure that patients throughout the nation have access to health care, it is imperative that workforce funding reflects the heightened needs of our communities. We appreciate Congress’ commitment to nursing education, workforce, and research and urge you to make much needed increases to the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs and NINR in FY 2025.

The Nursing Community Coalition is a cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the nursing profession. Together, the NCC represents Registered Nurses (RNs), Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs),1 nurse leaders, students, faculty, and researchers. As the largest segment of the health care profession,2 nursing is involved at every point of care.

We all have witnessed the immense impact public health challenges have on our nursing students and workforce. In fact, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) projected that by 2032 demand for RNs would

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1 APRNs include certified nurse-midwives (CNMs), certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs), clinical nurse specialists (CNs) and nurse practitioners (NPs).
increase 6%, illustrating an employment change of 177,400 nurses. The need for nurses and APRNs is expected to grow by 38%. The need for nurses and APRNs is not only outlined by BLS, but can be seen in communities across the nation, including rural and underserved areas. In fact, a recent American Nurses Foundation study found that 19% of nurses said they intend to leave their position in the next six months, and 27% are considering leaving. The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) unveiled their research, “Examining the impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Burnout & Stress Among U.S. Nurses,” which found that approximately 100,000 RNs left the workforce during the pandemic and another 610,388 RNs report an “intent to leave” by 2027 due to stress, burnout, and retirement. Given these realities, many look toward education to ensure the nursing pipeline remains strong. However, AACN’s most recent annual survey found that, “the primary barriers to accepting all qualified students at nursing schools continue to be insufficient clinical placement sites, faculty, preceptors, and classroom space, as well as budget cuts.”

Now is not the time to go backwards. Bold investments in our Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs, are critical, not only as we address the current needs of the profession, but as we prepare for the health care needs of tomorrow. As the largest dedicated federal funding for our current and future nurses, the Title VIII programs have helped bolster and sustain the nation’s diverse nursing pipeline by addressing all aspects of nursing workforce demand. With an aging workforce, aging population, and need to support our frontline providers, funding for Title VIII must meet levels reflecting the nursing population it serves. Therefore, with more than four and a half million nurses throughout the country, we strongly urge historic support for all the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs in FY 2025.

We have also seen the importance of science in the discussion of cures and preparedness. As one of the 27 Institutes and Centers at the National Institutes of Health, NINR’s research is aimed at reducing the impact of social determinants of health and creating a more equitable health care system by promoting patient-centered care across the life continuum. The translational research by our nation’s nurses and scientists is essential to developing new evidence-based practices to care for all patients. Through increased investments in NINR, they will be able to continue their vital work at the forefront of disease prevention, patient care, and recovery.

As you work to develop FY 2025 spending levels, and as we support America’s health, we urge you to invest in our nation’s nurses by providing at least $530 million for Nursing Workforce Development Programs and at least $210 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research in FY 2025. We appreciate the Committee’s commitment to nursing education, workforce, and research and respectfully ask that you continue to safeguard the public’s well-being by putting forward bold investments to support our current and future nurses. If our organizations can be of any assistance, or if you have any questions, please contact the Nursing Community Coalition’s Executive Director, Rachel Stevenson, at rstevenson@thenursingcommunity.org.

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Sincerely,
Accademy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
 Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
 American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
 American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners
 American Academy of 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 Anesthesiology
 American Association of Nurse Practitioners
 American Association of Post-Acute Care Nursing
 American College of Nurse-Midwives
 American Nephrology Nurses Association
 American Nurses Association
 American Nurses Association Informatics Association
 American Organization for Nursing Leadership
 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 periOperative Registered 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
 Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research
 Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
 Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association
 International Association of Forensic Nurses
 International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses
 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 Association of School Nurses
 National Council of State Boards of Nursing
 National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers
 National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence
 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
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Society of Pediatric Nurses
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates
Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nurses Society

CC:
Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Patty Murray
Senate Appropriations Committee Vice Chair Susan Collins
House Appropriations Committee Chairman Tom Cole
House Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro
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Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell
Speaker of the House Mike Johnson
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