



March 29, 2024

The Honorable Jeff Merkley  
United States Senate  
531 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lauren Underwood  
United States House of Representatives  
1410 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Merkley and Congresswoman Underwood:

On behalf of the 59 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC), we thank you for introducing the Future Advancement of Academic Nursing (FAAN) Act (H.R.7266/S.3770). The NCC is a cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the nursing profession, representing Registered Nurses (RNs), Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs),<sup>1</sup> nurse leaders, boards of nursing, students, faculty, and researchers. Together, the NCC appreciates the introduction of this vital effort to support the cornerstone of the profession, nursing education, and urges Congress to pass the FAAN Act this year.

As champions for the profession, you understand how essential it is to invest in our schools of nursing and faculty as they prepare the students of today to be tomorrow's frontline providers. As we look at the demands of the nursing profession, many turn their eye to education to ensure the workforce pipeline remains strong. However, AACN's annual survey finds 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."<sup>2</sup> The FAAN Act helps address these barriers by providing resources to enhance enrollment and recruitment of nursing students, hire and retain faculty, and support the modernization of nursing education infrastructure. One critically important aspect of this legislation is that it promotes new opportunities for schools of nursing to partner with nurse-managed health clinics, community health centers, and other health care facilities to create and expand clinical education opportunities. Further, the FAAN Act ensures that priority is given to such designations as medically underserved locations, rural communities, health professional shortage areas, or Minority Serving Institutions, so these critical resources are allocated to those that need it the most.

As Congress considers ways to support our current and future nursing workforce, and we continue to strive to educate the next generation of frontline nursing leaders, we truly appreciate your support by introducing the Future Advancement of Academic Nursing (FAAN) Act (H.R.7266/S.3770) and strongly

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<sup>1</sup> APRNs include certified nurse-midwives (CNMs), certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs), clinical nurse specialists (CNSs) and nurse practitioners (NPs)

<sup>2</sup> American Association of Colleges of Nursing. (2023) New Data Show Enrollment Declines in Schools of Nursing, Raising Concerns About the Nation's Nursing Workforce. Retrieved from: <https://www.aacnnursing.org/news-data/all-news/article/new-data-show-enrollment-declines-in-schools-of-nursing-raising-concerns-about-the-nations-nursing-workforce>

encourage the passage of this vital effort by the end of this year. If the Nursing Community Coalition can be of any assistance to you or your staff, please do not hesitate to contact the coalition's Executive Director, Rachel Stevenson, at [rstenenson@thenursingcommunity.org](mailto:rstenenson@thenursingcommunity.org).

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses  
Academy of Neonatal Nursing  
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 Nursing Informatics Association  
American Organization for Nursing Leadership  
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association, Inc.  
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 Veterans Affairs Nurse Anesthetists  
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 Black Nurses Association  
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:

Speaker of the House Mike Johnson  
House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries  
Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer  
Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell  
Chairwoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers, House Energy and Commerce Committee Ranking  
Member Frank Pallone, House Energy and Commerce Committee  
Chairman Bernie Sanders, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
Ranking Member Bill Cassidy, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions