



November 5, 2015

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Vice Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Cochran and Rogers, and Ranking Members Mikulski and Lowey:

With the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 now signed into law, the 50 undersigned nursing organizations representing the Nursing Community (NC), strongly urge you to provide the largest possible 302(b) allocation to the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education (LHHS-ED) and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee for Fiscal Year 2016. Collectively, the Nursing Community represents over one million 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.

Supporting the largest possible allocation for programs under LHHS-ED will also allow for a strong investment in the Nursing Workforce Development programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.]) and the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR, National Institutes of Health). These investments are key to sustaining a nursing workforce and practice grounded in science. Specifically, the NC recommends the higher level for the Title VIII programs from the House Committee and the higher level for NINR from the Senate Committee.

The Title VIII programs address all aspects of the nursing workforce demand, including education, practice, recruitment, retention, and most importantly, increasing access to care in areas that need it the most. Equally critical to building a robust nursing workforce is investing in the science that drives evidence-based nursing practice. Research projects funded through NINR are aimed at reducing burdensome chronic illness, improving quality of life, and promoting patient-centered care.

Again, we respectfully urge you to continue the bipartisan process by providing the largest possible 302(b) allocation for the LHHS-ED Appropriations Subcommittee to ensure the needed investment is made in critical health, education, and research programs like Title VIII and NINR. 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@aacn.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 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 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 Psychiatric Nurses Association
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 periOperative Registered 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 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 Gerontological Nursing Association
National League for Nursing
National Nursing Centers Consortium
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties

Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs
Oncology Nurses Society
Organization for Associate Degree Nursing
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates
Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society