



Testimony of the Nursing Community
Prepared for the U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Health Resources and Services Administration

National Institutes of Health

April 15, 2016

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The Nursing Community is a coalition comprised of 62 national professional nursing associations that builds consensus and advocates on a wide spectrum of healthcare issues surrounding education, research, and practice. These organizations are committed to promoting America's health through the advancement of the nursing profession. Collectively, the Nursing Community represents over one million Registered Nurses (RNs), Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (including certified nurse-midwives (CNMs), nurse practitioners (NPs), clinical nurse specialists (CNSs), and certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs)), nurse executives, nursing students, faculty, researchers, and other nurses with advanced degrees. For Fiscal Year (FY) 2017, our organizations respectfully request **\$244 million for the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Nursing Workforce Development programs** (authorized under Title VIII of the *Public Health Service Act* [42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.]) and **\$157 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)**, one of the Institutes and Centers within the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Title VIII Programs: Responding to the Needs of America's Patients through Nursing Care

As integral members of the healthcare team, nurses collaborate with other professions and disciplines to improve the quality of America's healthcare system. The reach of their care is vast: they offer essential patient care in a variety of settings, including hospitals, long-term care facilities, community centers, state and local health departments, schools, workplaces, and patient homes. RNs comprise the largest group of health professionals with over three million licensed providers in the country.¹ A constant focus must be placed on education, recruitment, and retention to ensure a stable workforce, particularly in geographic regions that will continue to experience health provider shortages in the coming years. A significant investment must be made in the education of new nurses to provide the nation with the services it demands. For over 50 years, the Nursing Workforce Development programs, authorized under Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act, have helped to build the supply and distribution of qualified

¹ National Council of State Boards of Nursing. (2016). *Active RN Licenses: A profile of nursing licensure in the U.S. as of January 23, 2016*. Retrieved from: <https://www.ncsbn.org/6161.htm>.

nurses to meet our nation's healthcare needs. Title VIII programs bolster nursing education at all levels, from entry-level preparation through graduate study, and provide support for institutions that educate nurses for practice in rural and medically underserved communities. Today, the Title VIII programs are essential to ensuring the demand for nursing care is met. Title VIII programs target specific aspects of America's nursing workforce and patient populations that require federal support in order to ensure efficient and effective delivery of healthcare services.

For example, according to HRSA, there were over 61.2 million individuals living in primary care Health Professional Shortage Areas as of December 2015.² Title VIII programs provide graduate students and practicing nurses exposure to caring for underserved communities such as these, thus helping to bolster recruitment and retention in these areas. In academic year 2014-2015, the Title VIII Advanced Education Nursing Traineeships supported 3,008 students, of which 72% were trained in primary care,³ and the Title VIII Nurse Anesthetist Traineeships supported 3,229 students, of which 64% were trained in Medically Underserved Areas.⁴ Moreover, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' projection that employment of CRNAs, CNMs, and NPs is expected to grow 31% between 2012 and 2022.⁴ These programs strengthen the supply of these clinicians.

Additionally, the Title VIII NURSE Corps Loan Repayment and Scholarship Programs assist students who agree to serve at least three years in facilities experiencing a critical shortage of providers.⁴ Last year, 55% of the Loan Repayment Program recipients extended their service contracts to work in these facilities beyond the required three years.⁴ Clearly, these programs are instrumental to connecting current and future providers to patient populations most in need.

America's aging population is another sector that will require additional providers. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, it is estimated that by year 2050, the number of people in the U.S. age 65 and older will reach 83.7 million (nearly one-quarter of the projected population).⁵ Rising rates of chronic illness, coupled with an expanding population, will necessitate a cadre of nurses to care for these individuals. The Title VIII Comprehensive Geriatric Education program is designed to meet this call. In academic year 2014-2015 alone, there were 22,743 students and trainees supported through these grants. These individuals are the future caregivers to elderly Americans. Funding through this program was utilized to prepare faculty members, develop and disseminate geriatric curriculum, and provide traineeships for students pursuing advanced education nursing degrees in geropsychiatric nursing, long-term care, and other nursing specialties centered on caring for elderly populations.

² U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration. (2016). *Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics*. Retrieved from: https://ersrs.hrsa.gov/ReportServer?/HGDW_Reports/BCD_HPSA/BCD_HPSA_SCR50_Qtr_Smry_HTML&rc:Toolbar=false.

³ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2016). *Health Resources and Services Administration Fiscal year 2017 Justification of Estimates for Appropriations Committees*. Retrieved from: <http://www.hrsa.gov/about/budget/budgetjustification2017.pdf>.

⁴ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2014). *Occupational Outlook Handbook*. Registered Nurses. Retrieved from: <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/registered-nurses.htm>.

⁵ U.S. Census Bureau. (2014). *An Aging Nation: The Older Population in the United States*. Retrieved from: <https://www.census.gov/prod/2014pubs/p25-1140.pdf>.

The Nursing Community respectfully requests \$244 million for the Nursing Workforce Development programs in FY 2017.

National Institute of Nursing Research: Foundation for Evidence-Based Care

The care that nurses provide must be rooted in evidence. As one of the 27 Institutes and Centers at the NIH, NINR funds research that lays the groundwork for evidence-based nursing practice. NINR examines ways to improve care models to deliver safe, high-quality, and cost-effective health services to the nation. Our country must look toward the prevention aspect of health care as the vehicle for saving our system from further financial burden, and the work of NINR embraces this endeavor through research related to care management of patients during illness and recovery, reduction of risks for disease and disability, promotion of healthy lifestyles, enhancement of quality of life for those with chronic illness, and care for individuals at the end of life. NINR addresses these challenges through its Strategic Plan, which includes the themes of: symptom science for patients with chronic illness and pain; wellness to prevent illness across conditions, settings, and the lifespan; patient self-management to improve quality of life; and end-of-life and palliative care science.⁶

In addition, NINR recognizes the need for improving global health and promotes research to reduce communicable diseases and improve public health and wellness such as maternal-newborn care. Moreover, NINR allots a generous portion of its budget towards training new nursing scientists, thus helping to sustain the longevity and success of nursing research. Training programs at NINR develop future nurse researchers, many of whom also serve as faculty in our nation's nursing schools.

The Nursing Community respectfully requests \$157 million for the NINR in FY 2017. The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research requests at least \$34.5 billion for NIH in 2017, and the request level of \$157 million for NINR denotes the same percentage increase for NIH applied to NINR.

Members of the Nursing Community Submitting this Testimony

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

⁶ National Institutes of Health. National Institute of Nursing Research. *Implementing NINR's Strategic Plan: Key Themes*. Retrieved from: http://www.ninr.nih.gov/aboutninr/keythemes#.VRVhGWZ_SSU.

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 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 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 Black Nurses Association
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 Nursing Society
Organization for Associate Degree Nursing
Pediatric Endocrinology Nursing Society
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Public Health Nursing Section, American Public Health Association
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates
The Quad Council of Public Health Nursing Organizations
Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society