

**ANSR****AMERICANS FOR NURSING SHORTAGE RELIEF**

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**Testimony of the Americans for Nursing Shortage Relief (ANSR) Alliance Regarding Fiscal Year 2014 Appropriations for HRSA's Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs and Nurse Managed Health Clinics**

*March 25, 2014*

The organizations of the ANSR Alliance greatly appreciate the opportunity to submit written testimony recommending \$251 million for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and \$20 million for the Nurse Managed Health Clinics as authorized under Title III of the Public Health Service Act. We represent a diverse cross-section of health care and other related organizations, health care providers, and supporters of nursing issues (<http://www.ansralliance.org/Members.html>) that have united to address the national nursing shortage. ANSR stands ready to work with Congress to advance programs and policy that will ensure our nation has a sufficient and adequately prepared nursing workforce to provide quality care to all well into the 21st century.

**The Nursing Shortage**

Nursing is the largest health care profession in the United States and work in a variety of settings, including primary care, public health, long-term care, surgical care facilities, schools, and hospitals. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of registered nurses is projected to grow 19 percent from 2012 to 2022 - faster than the average for all occupations - resulting in 526,800 new jobs. This growth will occur for a number of reasons, including an increased emphasis on preventative care; growing rates of chronic conditions, such as diabetes and obesity; and demand

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for healthcare services from the baby boomer population, as they live longer and more active lives. The Title VIII Nursing Workforce Education Programs will help fill these vacancies by supporting training programs designed to meet these health care needs.

The Title VIII Nursing Workforce and Education programs provide training for entry-level and advanced degree nurses to improve the access to, and the quality of, health care in underserved areas.

These programs provide the largest source of federal funding for nursing education, providing loans, scholarships, traineeships, and programmatic support that, between FY 2005 and 2010, supported over 400,000 nurses and nursing students as well as numerous academic nursing institutions and health care facilities.

### **The Desperate Need for Nurse Faculty**

Nursing vacancies exist throughout the entire health care system, including long-term care, home care and public health. Government estimates indicate that this situation only promises to worsen due to an insufficient supply of individuals matriculating in nursing schools, an aging existing workforce, and the inadequate availability of nursing faculty to educate and train the next generation of nurses. At the exact same time that the nursing shortage is expected to worsen, the baby boom generation is aging and the number of individuals with serious, life-threatening, and chronic conditions requiring nursing care will increase.

Each year, nursing schools turn away tens of thousands of qualified applications at all degree levels due to an insufficient number of faculty, clinical sites, classroom space, clinical preceptors, and budget constraints. Securing and retaining adequate numbers of faculty is essential to ensure that all individuals interested in – and qualified for – nursing school can matriculate in the year that they are accepted.

ANSR supports the need for sustained attention on the efficacy and performance of existing and proposed programs to improve nursing practices and strengthen the nursing workforce. The support of research and evaluation studies that test models of nursing practice and workforce development is integral to advancing health care for all in America. Investments in research and evaluation studies have a direct effect on the caliber of nursing care. Our collective goal of improving the quality of patient care, reducing costs, and efficiently delivering appropriate health care to those in need is served best by aggressive nursing research and performance and impact evaluation at the program level.

### **The Nursing Supply Impacts the Nation's Health and Economic Safety**

The demand for primary care services in the US is expected to increase over the next few years, particularly with the aging and growth of the population. One study projects that by the year 2019, the demand for primary care in the United States will increase by between 15 million and 25 million visits per year. HRSA estimates that more than 35.2 million people living within the 5,870 Health Professional Shortage Areas nationwide do not currently receive adequate primary care services. Research suggests that nurses and other health professionals are trained to and already do deliver many primary care services and may therefore be able to help increase access to primary care, particularly in underserved areas.

ANSR applauds the subcommittee's bipartisan efforts to recognize that a strong nursing workforce is essential to a health policy that provides high-value care for every dollar invested in capacity building for a 21<sup>st</sup> century nurse workforce. For 50 years, the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs have responded to the nation's evolving workforce needs by providing education and training opportunities to nurses. These programs are the only federal programs focused on filling gaps in the supply of nurses not met by traditional market forces, as well as producing a work-

force prepared to care for the nation's increasingly diverse and aging population. Numerous studies have demonstrated that the Title VIII programs graduate more minority and disadvantaged students more likely to serve in community health centers as well as rural and underserved areas. In a difficult economy, the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Education Programs help schools offer scholarships and affordable loans to nursing students, making such educational opportunities available to aspiring nurses of all backgrounds. By guiding job seekers to high-demand nursing jobs, the programs fulfill both their individual career goals and a community's health needs.

### **Summary**

HRSA's Title VIII Nursing Workforce Education programs contribute to a sufficient nursing workforce to meet the demands of a highly diverse and aging population is an essential component to improving the health status of the nation and reducing health care costs. While the ANSR Alliance understands the immense fiscal pressures facing the nation, we respectfully urge support for \$251 million in funding for Nursing Workforce Development Programs under Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act at HRSA and \$20 million for the Nurse Managed Health Clinics under Title III of the Public Health Service Act in FY 2015. We look forward to working with the Subcommittee to prioritize the Title VIII programs in FY 2015 and the future.

#### **List of ANSR Member Organizations:**

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses  
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing  
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners  
American Academy of Nursing  
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
American Association of Nurse Assessment Coordination  
American Association of Occupational Health Nurses  
American College of Nurse-Midwives  
American Organization of Nurse Executives  
American Psychiatric Nurses Association  
American Society for Pain Management Nursing  
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses  
American Society of Plastic Surgical Nurses

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Association for Radiologic & Imaging Nursing  
Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses  
Association of State and Territorial Directors of Nursing  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric & Neonatal Nurses  
Citizen Advocacy Center  
Dermatology Nurses' Association  
Developmental Disabilities Nurses Association  
Emergency Nurses Association  
Infusion Nurses Society  
International Association of Forensic Nurses  
International Nurses Society on Addictions  
International Society of Nurses in Genetics, Inc.  
Legislative Coalition of Virginia Nurses  
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists  
National Association of Hispanic Nurses  
National Association of Neonatal Nurses  
National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners  
National Association of Nurse Massage Therapists  
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health  
National Association of Orthopedic Nurses  
National Association of Registered Nurse First Assistants  
National Association of School Nurses  
National Black Nurses Association  
National Council of State Boards of Nursing  
National Council of Women's Organizations  
National Gerontological Nursing Association  
National League for Nursing  
National Nursing Centers Consortium  
National Nursing Staff Development Organization  
National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing  
National Student Nurses' Association, Inc.  
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs  
Pediatric Endocrinology Nursing Society  
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association  
RN First Assistants Policy & Advocacy Coalition  
Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates, Inc.  
Society of Pediatric Nurses  
Society of Trauma Nurses  
Women's Research & Education Institute  
Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society