



October 26, 2016

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Cochran and Blunt and Ranking Members Mikulski and Murray:

On behalf of the 56 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community coalition, we respectfully urge you to support our original FY 2017 requests of **\$244 million for the Nursing Workforce Development programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act) and \$157 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR, National Institutes of Health (NIH))** in your Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill.

The Nursing Community, representing over one million registered nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, nurse faculty, researchers, and students, is committed to promoting efforts that advance the health of our nation through nursing care. As the demand for high-quality care intensifies, it is critical that investments are made in the nation's largest healthcare workforce, registered nurses.

For over 50 years, the Title VIII programs have been able to meet the growing demand for nursing services at the community, state, and national levels due to strong, sustained funding. Administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration, these programs directly contribute to the health and wellness of American by providing care to underserved populations, increasing access to primary care, and promoting diversity to better serve all communities. For example, the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Diversity Grants supported 13,225 students in academic year 2014-2015, and partnered with over 900 clinical training sites, of which 42% were located in underserved areas. Additionally, last year the Title VIII Advanced Education Nursing Traineeships programs trained 3,008 nursing students, of which 72% were in primary care settings. The present and looming demand for high quality healthcare proves it is imperative to support the future pipeline of highly-educated nurses.

Evidence-based nursing research currently being produced at the NINR is the foundation for the care nurses provide. Nursing science is focused on reducing rates of costly, chronic diseases, promoting patient and family-centered wellness, and improving palliative and end-of-life care. NINR funds also bolster training programs that develop nurse scientists who often serve as faculty members. Our request of \$157 million for NINR aligns with the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research's FY 2017 request for the total NIH budget of at least \$34 billion.

As you continue to develop a spending solution for FY 2017, the Nursing Community urges you to help ensure the health of Americans is a top priority by supporting the **Nursing Workforce Development programs at \$244 million and the National Institute of Nursing Research at \$157 million**. If our organizations can be of any assistance, or if you have any questions, please contact the Convener of the Nursing Community, 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 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
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 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
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 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-Led 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 Pediatric Nurses
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates
The Quad Council of Public Health Nursing Organizations
Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society

A similar letter was transmitted to the House Appropriations Committee leadership on October 26, 2016.