



March 29, 2012

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, HHS and Education
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, HHS and Education
156 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Shelby:

On behalf the 50 undersigned Nursing Community organizations, we respectfully request your support for increased funding in Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 for the Nursing Workforce Development programs authorized under Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.), the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR), as well as to secure authorized funding for Nurse-Managed Health Clinics (NMHCs) (Title III of the Public Health Service Act). Specifically, we urge you to provide \$251 million for the Nursing Workforce Development programs, \$150 million for NINR, and \$20 million for the NMHC grants.

The contributions made by the practice and science of nursing are significant, and in collaboration with other health professionals, improve the quality of America's healthcare system. According to the 2012 Bureau of Labor Statistics' *Employment Projections 2010-2020*, the Registered Nursing (RN) workforce is one of the leading occupations that will add the most positions by 2020. It is expected that the number of practicing nurses will grow from 2.74 million in 2010 to 3.45 million in 2020, an increase of 712,000 or 26%. The projections further explain the need for 495,500 replacements in the nursing workforce bringing the total number of job opening for nurses due to growth and replacements to 1.2 million by 2020.¹ Nurses are involved in every aspect of health care, but the present and looming demand for RNs and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) limits access to quality care. The three programs for which the Nursing Community seeks your support directly address nursing's role in healthcare quality and innovation.

First, a strong federal investment in America's nursing workforce is essential if it is to keep pace with the increasing demand for healthcare professionals. The Nursing Workforce Development programs, administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), will help alleviate the acute need for nurses. For nearly 50 years, they have supported the recruitment, education, and retention of nurses. APRNs and RNs rely upon support through Title VIII to complete their degrees and offset their considerable educational expenses. The Nursing Workforce Development programs are tailored specifically to addressing workforce demands, particularly in rural and under-served areas, and will require enhanced funding to adequately meet the needs of our nation.

¹ Bureau of Labor Statistic. (2012). *Employment Projections 2010-2020*. Accessed March 5, 2012 from <http://bls.gov/news.release/ecopro.nr0.htm>

Second, research-based initiatives that improve acute care outcomes and promote preventative health awareness hold the key to reducing healthcare spending and promoting sustainable practices, which are at the heart of nursing science. NINR's research goals of promoting health, preventing disease, eliminating health disparities, and improving quality of life over the last 25 years has made a lasting impact on the lives of millions of Americans. Often working collaboratively with physicians and other researchers, nurse scientists are vital in setting the national research agenda. Improving the investment in nursing science through NINR will help spur innovation to advance care practices in our nation's healthcare system.

Third, access to high quality, cost-effective care is in demand in every community throughout the United States. In particular, our nation has identified a need for primary care services especially in rural and urban areas. To address this demand, both the Institute of Medicine and HRSA have stressed the importance of nurses assuming a greater role in providing primary care independently and as part of an interdisciplinary team. NMHCs are a unique solution to this crisis as they provide primary care, health promotion, and disease prevention to individuals with limited access to care. Moreover, NMHCs are managed by APRNs and staffed by an interdisciplinary team of healthcare providers, which may include physicians, social workers, public health nurses, and therapists. In 2010, the Nurse-Managed Health Clinic Grant Program was created to provide NMHCs with a stable source of federal funding that would place them on similar footing as other safety-net providers. The care provided in these sites directly contributes to positive health outcomes and savings in the long term.

Please know that the undersigned organizations understand and appreciate the difficult decisions Congress must make to reduce the federal deficit. However, without an adequate supply of nurses, the science to support their work, and the safety net services they provide, the nation's healthcare system is not sustainable. We thank you in advance for your consideration of our FY 2013 requests of \$251 million for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs, \$150 million for NINR, and \$20 million for Nurse-Managed Health Clinics. Please consider our organizations available as resources to you and your colleagues on national nursing issues. If you have any questions, please contact Suzanne Miyamoto at smiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
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 Nurse Anesthetists
American College of Nurse Practitioners
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Holistic Nurses Association
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 of Community Health Nursing Educators
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses

Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
Association of State and Territorial Directors of Nursing
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service
Dermatology Nurses' Association
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association
Infusion Nurses Society
International Association of Forensic Nurses
International Nurses Society on Addictions
International Society of Nurses in Genetics
International Society of Psychiatric Nursing
National American Arab Nurses Association
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Association of Hispanic Nurses
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Black Nurses Association
National Coalition of Ethnic Minority Nurse Associations
National Gerontological Nursing Association
National Nursing Centers Consortium
National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs
Oncology Nursing Society
Pediatric Endocrinology Nursing Society
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Public Health Nursing Section, American Public Health Association
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates
Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society

Cc:

Senator Daniel Inouye
Senator Herb Kohl
Senator Patty Murray
Senator Mary Landrieu
Senator Richard Durbin
Senator Jack Reed
Senator Mark Pryor
Senator Barbara Mikulski
Senator Sherrod Brown
Senator Thad Cochran
Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison
Senator Lamar Alexander
Senator Ron Johnson
Senator Mark Kirk
Senator Lindsey Graham
Senator Jerry Moran