

**Testimony of the Americans for Nursing Shortage Relief (ANSR) Alliance
Regarding Fiscal Year 2013 Appropriations for Nursing Workforce Development Programs and Nurse Man-
aged Health Clinics**

**Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives**

March 29, 2012

The undersigned organizations of the ANSR Alliance greatly appreciate the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding fiscal year (FY) 2013 appropriations for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and 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 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 Alliance, therefore, urges Congress to:

- **Appropriate \$251 million in funding for Nursing Workforce Development Programs under Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in FY 2013.**
- **Appropriate \$20 million in FY 2013 for the Nurse Managed Health Clinics as authorized under Title III of the Public Health Service Act.**

The Nursing Shortage

Nursing is the largest health care profession in the United States. Nurses work in a variety of settings, including primary care, public health, long-term care, surgical care facilities, schools, and hospitals. The March 2008 study, *The Future of the Nursing Workforce in the United States: Data, Trends, and Implications*, calculates a projected demand of 500,000 full-time equivalent registered nurses by 2025. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of registered nurses is expected to grow by 26 percent from 2010 to 2020 resulting in 711,900 new jobs. Based on these

scenarios, the shortage presents an extremely serious challenge in the delivery of high quality, cost-effective services, as the nation looks to reform the current healthcare system.

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.

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. The National League for Nursing found that in the 2009-2010 academic year,

- 42 percent of qualified applications to prelicensure RN programs were turned away.
- One in four (25.1 percent) of prelicensure RN programs turned away qualified applicants.
- Four out of five (60 percent) of prelicensure RN programs were considered “highly selective” by national college admissions standards, accepting less than 50 percent of applications for admission.

Aside from having a limited number of faculty, nursing programs struggle to provide space for clinical laboratories and to secure a sufficient number of clinical training sites at health care facilities.

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

Nurses make a difference in the lives of patients from disease prevention and management to education to responding to emergencies. An October 2008 report issued by Trust for America's Health entitled *Blueprint for a Healthier America* found that the health and safety of Americans depends on the next generation of professionals in public health. Existing efforts to recruit and retain the public health workforce are insufficient; therefore, new policies and incentives must be created to make public service careers in public health an attractive professional path, especially for the emerging workforce and those changing careers.

The Institute of Medicine report, *Hospital-Based Emergency Care: At the Breaking Point*, notes that nursing shortages in U.S. hospitals continue to disrupt hospitals operations and are detrimental to patient care and safety. Hospitals and other health care facilities across the country are vulnerable to mass casualty incidents themselves and/or in emergency and disaster preparedness situations. Since 80% of disaster victims present at the emergency department, nurses as first receivers are an important aspect of the public health system as well as the healthcare system in general. The nursing shortage has a significant adverse impact on the ability of communities to respond to health emergencies, including natural, technological and manmade hazards.

The shortage of school nurse positions contributes to holes in the health care safety net for all children. The Institute of Medicine report, *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*, points out that with an expected increase in the number of children who have complex medical, genetic and mental/behavioral health conditions that require more nursing oversight, school nursing provides the expertise and coordination to assure that children receive the care they need.

Summary

The link between health care and our nation's economic security and global competitiveness is undeniable. Having a sufficient nursing workforce to meet the demands of a highly diverse and aging population is an essential component to reforming the health care system as well as improving the health status of the nation and reducing health care costs. To mitigate the immediate effect of the nursing shortage and to address all of these policy areas, **ANSR requests \$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 2013.**

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List of ANSR Member Organizations:

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses	American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing	American Society of Plastic Surgical Nurses
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners	Association for Radiologic & Imaging Nursing
American Academy of Nursing	Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses	Association of State and Territorial Directors of Nursing
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists	Association of Women's Health, Obstetric & Neonatal Nurses
American Association of Nurse Assessment Coordination	Citizen Advocacy Center
American Association of Occupational Health Nurses	Dermatology Nurses' Association
American College of Nurse-Midwives	Developmental Disabilities Nurses Association
American Organization of Nurse Executives	Emergency Nurses Association
American Psychiatric Nurses Association	Infusion Nurses Society
American Society for Pain Management Nursing	

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