



**Testimony of the Nursing Community Regarding
Fiscal Year 2012 Appropriations for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development
Programs, the National Institute of Nursing Research, and Nurse-Managed Health Clinics**

**U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and
Education**

Department of Health and Human Services

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The Nursing Community is a forum for professional nursing organizations to collaborate on a wide spectrum of healthcare and nursing issues, including practice, education, and research. These 56 organizations are committed to promoting America's health through nursing care. Collectively, the Nursing Community represents over 850,000 Registered Nurses (RNs), Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs-including certified nurse-midwives, nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, and certified registered nurse anesthetists), nurse executives, nursing students, nursing faculty, and nurse researchers. Together, our organizations work collaboratively to increase funding 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), and to secure authorized funding for Nurse-Managed Health Clinics so that American nurses have the support needed to provide high quality health care to the nation.

Nurses are involved in every aspect of health care, and if the nursing workforce is not strengthened, the healthcare system will continue to suffer. Currently, RNs comprise the largest group of health professionals with approximately 3.1 million licensed providers. Nurses offer essential care to patients as well as our nation's active duty military and veterans in a variety of settings, including hospitals, ambulatory care clinics, long-term care facilities, community or public health areas, schools, workplaces, and private homes. In addition, many nurses pursue graduate degrees to assume roles as advanced practice registered nurses who practice autonomously; become nurse faculty, nurse researchers, nurse administrators, and advanced public health nurses. Nurses also specialize in areas such as mental and women's health, pain management, hospice and palliative care, nephrology, oncology, rehabilitation, forensics, dermatology, urology, and care coordination. They are critical team members in all departments such as intensive and critical care, pediatrics, geriatrics, medical surgical, and operating rooms. RNs and APRNs hold a holistic view of health.

With the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* [Public Law 111-148] (ACA) focus on creating a system that will increase access to quality care, emphasize prevention, and decrease cost, it is critical that a substantial investment be made in our RN and APRN workforce, in the scientific research that provides the basis for nursing practice, and in the safety-net facilities they operate.

In an article published in the July/August 2009 issue of *Health Affairs*, Dr. Peter Buerhaus, a noted health professions workforce analyst, and colleagues confirmed that although the economic recession has led to a temporary easing of the nursing shortage in some parts of the country, the overall shortfall in the number of nurses needed is expected to grow to 260,000 by the year 2025. Three major factors contribute to this growing demand for nursing care. First, over 275,000 practicing RNs are over the age of 60 according to the *2008 National Sample Survey of Registered Nurses*. When the economy rebounds, many of these nurses will seek retirement. Second, America's population is aging. Older Americans will seek more healthcare services creating an influx of consumers and necessitate the need for quality nursing care. Finally, the ACA will expand the number of individuals seeking care by 32 million.

Furthermore, in a report released by the Institute of Medicine and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation titled, *The Future of the Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*, clear and evidence based guidance was provided on how to shape nursing's role in healthcare delivery as the system undergoes considerable changes. The report's key messages include:

- Nurses should practice to the full extent of their education and training; scope of practice limitations should be removed.
- Nurses should achieve higher levels of education and training through an improved education system that promotes seamless academic progression.
- Nurses should be full partners with other healthcare professionals in redesigning health care in the United States.
- Effective workforce planning and policy making require better data collection and an improved information infrastructure.

To achieve these goals, different levels of support will be needed for all nurses and each of the funding requests outlined below will help to meet not only the goals of the IOM report, but the larger national goals of access to high quality, cost effective care.

Addressing the Demand: Nursing Workforce Development Programs

The Nursing Workforce Development programs, authorized under Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.), helped build the supply and distribution of qualified nurses to meet our nation's healthcare needs since 1964. Over the last 47 years, these programs addressed all aspects of supporting the workforce—education, practice, retention, and recruitment. The 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 ensure the demand for nursing care is met. Between FY 2006 and 2009, the Title VIII programs supported over 347,000 nurses and nursing students as well as numerous academic nursing institutions, and healthcare facilities.

Results from the American Association of Colleges of Nursing's (AACN) *2010-2011 Title VIII Student Recipient Survey* included responses from 1,459 students who noted that these programs played a critical role in funding their nursing education. The survey showed that 80% of the students receiving Title VIII funding are attending school full-time. By supporting full-time students, the Title VIII programs are helping to ensure that students enter the workforce without delay. The programs also address the current demand for primary care providers. Nearly one third of

respondents reported that their career goal is to become a nurse practitioner. Approximately 80% of nurse practitioners provide primary care services throughout the United States. Additionally, the respondents identified working in rural and underserved areas as future goals, with becoming a nurse faculty member, a nurse practitioner, or a certified registered nurse anesthetist as the top three nursing positions for their career aspirations.

The Nursing Community respectfully requests \$313.075 million for the Nursing Workforce Development programs authorized under Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act in FY 2012 as recommended in the President's FY 2012 budget proposal.

Building the Science: The National Institute of Nursing Research

As one of the 27 Institutes and Centers at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the NINR funds research that establishes the scientific basis for quality patient care. Nurse researchers make significant advances in and contributions to health prevention and care. In addition, they work collaboratively as well as part of multidisciplinary research teams with colleagues from other fields and are vital in setting the national research agenda.

The Nursing Community respectfully requests \$163 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research in FY 2012. Nursing research is an essential part of scientific endeavors to improve the nation's health. Knowledge of care across the lifespan is critical to the present and future health of the nation. Research funded at the NINR helps to integrate biology and behavior as well as design new technology and tools. At a time when healthcare needs are changing, nursing care must be firmly grounded in nursing science. The four strategic areas of emphasis for research at NINR are promoting health and preventing disease, eliminating health disparities, improving quality of life, and setting directions for end-of-life research.

The science advanced at NINR is integral to the future of the nation's healthcare system. Through grants, research training, and interdisciplinary collaborations, NINR addresses 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's research fosters advances in nursing practice, improves patient care, and attracts new students to the profession.

Supporting Safety Net Facilities: Nurse-Managed Health Clinics

The ACA amended Sec. 330 of the Public Health Service Act to provide grant eligibility to Nurse-Managed Health Clinics (NMHCs) to support operating costs and authorized up to \$50 million a year for this purpose. NMHCs are defined as a nurse-practice arrangement, managed by APRNs, that provides primary care or wellness services to underserved or vulnerable populations and that is associated with a school, college, university or department of nursing, federally qualified health center, or independent nonprofit health or social services agency. Nurse-Managed Health Clinics successfully engage communities and address critical health needs for underserved populations.

The Nursing Community respectfully requests \$20 million for the Nurse-Managed Health Clinics authorized under Title III of the Public Health Service Act in FY 2012 as recommended in the President's FY 2012 budget proposal.

NMHCs provide care to clients and patients in clinics located in places like public housing, on blighted urban streets, on Native American reservations, in rural communities, in senior citizen centers, in elementary schools, in storefronts, and even in churches. The services these clinics provide include primary care, health promotion, and disease prevention. Furthermore, NMHCs also act as important teaching and practice sites for nursing students.

The care provided in these sites directly contributes to positive health outcomes and savings in the long term. In one US city alone, nurses at an NMHC see their patients almost twice as frequently as other providers, and their patients are hospitalized 30% less and use the emergency room 15% less often than those of other healthcare providers. Providing funding for these centers is a direct investment in the specific health needs of localized communities.

Without a workforce of well-educated nurses providing evidence-based care to those who need it most, including our growing aging population, the healthcare system is not sustainable. The Nursing Community's request of \$313.075 million in FY 2012 for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs, \$163 million for the NINR, and \$20 million for NMHCs will help ensure access to quality care provided by America's nursing workforce.

Members of the Nursing Community Submitting this Testimony

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses	Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing	Commissioned Officers Association
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners	Dermatology Nurses' Association
American Academy of Nursing	Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
American Assembly for Men in Nursing	Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association
American Association of Colleges of Nursing	Infusion Nurses Society
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses	International Association of Forensic Nurses
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists	International Nurses Society on Addictions
American Association of Nurse Assessment Coordinators	International Society of Psychiatric Nurses
American College of Nurse Practitioners	National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
American College of Nurse-Midwives	National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
American Holistic Nurses Association	National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
American Nephrology Nurses' Association	National Black Nurses Association
American Nurses Association	National Coalition of Ethnic Minority Nurse Associations
American Organization of Nurse Executives	National Nursing Centers Consortium
American Psychiatric Nurses Association	National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
American Society for Pain Management Nursing	Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses	Oncology Nursing Society
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators	Public Health Nursing Section, American Public Health Association
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses	Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses	
Association of State and Territorial Directors of Nursing	