



September 7, 2018

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Chairman  
Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen  
Chairman  
Appropriations Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Vice Chairman  
Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Shelby and Frelinghuysen, Vice Chairman Leahy, and Ranking Member Lowey:

As you work to finalize the final Labor, Health and Human Services, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2019, the 51 undersigned members of the Nursing Community Coalition ask that you support at least the Senate's recommended levels of **\$249.472 million for the Nursing Workforce Development programs** (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.]) **and \$163.076 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research** (NINR, one of the 27 Institutes and Centers within the National Institutes of Health). We thank you for recognizing how essential these programs are in sustaining valuable nursing research and safeguarding the health of our nation.

Collectively, the Nursing Community Coalition represents over one million registered nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, nurse faculty, researchers, and students. The coalition is committed to promoting efforts that advance the health of our nation through nursing care. As the demand for high-quality care intensifies, there must be a firm investment in the nation's largest healthcare workforce—registered nurses.

Administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration, the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs are instrumental in bolstering and sustaining the nation's nursing pipeline. This pipeline is imperative as the demand for nurses is projected to increase 28% by the year 2030, and at a time when nurses are retiring at an unprecedented rate.<sup>1,2</sup> Title VIII programs address all aspects of the nursing workforce demand, including: education, practice, recruitment, retention, and most importantly, increasing access to care to communities that need it most, such as those in rural and underserved areas. It is critically important that these programs, especially the Advanced Nursing

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<sup>1</sup> Health Resources and Services Administration. (2017). Supply and Demand Projections of the Nursing Workforce: 2014-2030. Retrieved from: [https://bhwh.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/bhwh/nchwa/projections/NCHWA\\_HRSA\\_Nursing\\_Report.pdf?utm\\_campaign=enews08172017&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://bhwh.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/bhwh/nchwa/projections/NCHWA_HRSA_Nursing_Report.pdf?utm_campaign=enews08172017&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).

<sup>2</sup> "Since 2012, roughly 60,000 RNs have exited the workforce each year, and by the end of the decade, more than 70,000 will be retiring annually." Buerhaus, Peter, Lucy Skinner, David Auerbach, and Douglas Staiger. (2017). "Four Challenges Facing the Nursing Workforce in the United States." *Journal of Nursing Regulation*. Volume 8, Issue 2, pp. 40-46.

Education (ANE) programs for which the House FY 2019 appropriations package proposes an \$8 million cut, continue to receive this vital funding. The ANE programs ensure primary and specialty care reach those areas with critical workforce shortages.

For 30 years, scientific endeavors funded through NINR have been integral to advancing the health of individuals, families, and communities. True to NINR's mission, research projects funded through this institute are aimed at reducing burdensome chronic illness, improving end of life care, and promoting patient-centered care across the life continuum. Additionally, NINR funded-research continues to make advancements in genomics, precision medicine, and team science.

We want to impress upon you the importance of supporting the future health of our nation by providing the Senate levels for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs and the National Institute of Nursing Research in FY 2019. If our organizations can be of any assistance, or if you have any questions, please contact the Nursing Community Coalition's Executive Director, Dr. Suzanne Miyamoto, at [Smiyamoto@aacnnursing.org](mailto:Smiyamoto@aacnnursing.org) or at 202-463-6930.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses  
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing  
American Academy of Nursing  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses  
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
American Association of Nurse Assessment Coordination  
American Association of Nurse Practitioners  
American College of Nurse-Midwives  
American Nephrology Nurses Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Nursing Informatics Association  
American Organization of Nurse Executives  
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association  
American Public Health Association, Public Health Nursing Section  
American Psychiatric Nurses Association  
American Society for Pain Management Nursing  
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses  
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators  
Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses  
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses  
Association of Public Health Nurses  
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses  
Association of Veterans Affairs Nurse Anesthetists  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
Emergency Nurses Association  
Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research  
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association

Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association  
Infusion Nurses Society  
International Association of Forensic Nurses  
International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses  
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists  
National Association of Hispanic Nurses  
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 Association of School Nurses  
National Black Nurses Association  
National Council of State Boards of Nursing  
National League for Nursing  
National Nurse-Led Care 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  
Society of Pediatric Nurses  
Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society

CC:

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
The Honorable Jerry Moran  
The Honorable Patty Murray  
The Honorable Dick Durbin  
The Honorable Harold Rogers  
The Honorable Robert Aderholt  
The Honorable Kay Granger  
The Honorable Ken Calvert  
The Honorable Tom Cole  
The Honorable Steve Womack  
The Honorable Martha Roby  
The Honorable Peter Visclosky  
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard  
The Honorable Betty McCollum