



June 22, 2020

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

On behalf of the 61 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community Coalition, we respectfully reiterate our request of **at least \$278 million for the Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.]) and \$182 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR, National Institutes of Health) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021.** We also strongly support additional supplemental funding for these programs as we continue to combat COVID-19. Through this investment, the Subcommittee would continue its strong commitment to these essential programs and safeguard the public's well-being by ensuring that federal resources for the nursing workforce, healthcare, and research are sustained.

The Nursing Community Coalition, which represents the cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the nursing profession, is committed to advancing the health of our nation through the nursing lens. With more than four million practitioners, nurses make up the largest group of health professionals in the United States.¹ The nursing workforce is involved at every point of care nationwide, which is exemplified by nurses' heroic work during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As we confront today's health care challenges and prepare for the future, increased federal investments in nursing education and the workforce, through support of Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs, is imperative. Title VIII programs are instrumental in bolstering and sustaining the nation's nursing pipeline by addressing all aspects of nursing workforce demand. A prime example of this is the Title VIII Advanced Nursing Education (ANE) programs, which support APRN students and nurses to practice on the frontlines and in rural and underserved areas throughout the country. Additionally, to ensure that we have a diverse nursing workforce, Title VIII programs also increase education opportunities for nursing students from underrepresented and disadvantaged backgrounds. From the

¹ National Council of State Boards of Nursing. (2020). Active RN Licenses: A profile of nursing licensure in the U.S. as of June 11, 2020. Retrieved from: <https://www.ncsbn.org/6161.htm>.

classroom to the bedside, and across a variety of settings, all Title VIII programs work to increase access to nursing care in communities that need it most.

To ensure that we have the knowledge to inform evidence-based practice and policy, we must also invest in research. As one of the 27 Institutes and Centers at the National Institutes of Health, NINR's research is aimed at reducing burdensome chronic illness, improving end of life care, and promoting patient-centered care across the life continuum. From disease prevention and global health, to precision medicine and genomic studies, NINR is at the forefront of nursing science and research.

Again, we urge you to **support at least \$278 million for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs and \$182 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research in FY 2021**, and supplemental funding as we continue to address current public health challenges. Through this investment we can ensure our patients and communities have continued access to these vital nursing education, research, and practice programs. If our organizations can be of any assistance, or if you have any questions, please contact the Nursing Community Coalition's Executive Director, Rachel Stevenson, at rstevenson@thenursingcommunity.org or at 202-463-6930, ext. 271.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners
Academy of Neonatal Nursing
American Academy of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
American Association of Neuroscience Nurses
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American Association of Post-Acute Care Nursing
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Nephrology Nurses Association
American Nurses Association
American Nursing Informatics Association
American Organization for Nursing Leadership
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association, Inc.
American Public Health Association, Public Health Nursing Section
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 Veterans Affairs Nurse Anesthetists

Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Incorporated
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service
Dermatology Nurses' Association
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 Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers
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
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates
Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society

CC:

Senator Richard Shelby
Senator Lamar Alexander
Senator Lindsey Graham
Senator Jerry Moran
Senator Shelley Moore Capito
Senator John Kennedy
Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith
Senator Marco Rubio
Senator James Lankford
Senator Patrick Leahy
Senator Richard Durbin
Senator Jack Reed
Senator Jeanne Shaheen

Senator Jeff Merkley
Senator Brian Schatz
Senator Tammy Baldwin
Senator Chris Murphy
Senator Joe Manchin