



***The American Rescue Plan Act Signed into Law:
Includes Support for Current and Future Nursing Workforce***

March 11, 2021 – On behalf of the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC), we commend Congress and the Administration for actions to address the COVID-19 pandemic by passing and signing into law H.R. 1319, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. H.R. 1319 provides \$1.9 trillion for ongoing testing and vaccine efforts, state and local funding, and other resources for Americans during this unprecedented time. The NCC recognizes this essential investment in the health of our nation, and our current and future nursing workforce, is imperative. As we respond to this public health crisis, the NCC is proud to see a number of our [shared priorities](#) incorporated into this legislation, including:

- **Protect and Support those on the Frontlines:**
 - \$80 million for mental health and substance use disorder training for health professionals including nurses;
 - \$20 million for efforts to encourage healthy work conditions and the use of mental health and substance use disorder services for health care professionals;
 - \$40 million to promote mental health services among health professional workforce.

- **Include Nurses, APRNs, and Nursing Students in all National Public Health Plans**
 - \$7.66 billion for the public health workforce, including public health nurses.

- **Invest in Federal Programs that support Current and Future Nursing Workforce**
 - \$200 million for the Nurse Corps to support scholarships and loan repayment for students, nurses, and advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) who work in areas that need them the most.

In addition, H.R. 1319 prioritizes the health of our veterans by providing nearly \$14.5 billion to the Department of Veteran’s Affairs. The NCC is also pleased to see monies for the Indian Health Service, workplace safety, child care, other health care and higher education provisions.

As vaccines continue to be administered, and as nursing students, nurses, and APRNs remain on the frontlines of this pandemic, we recognize the need for these critical investments and are aware that additional support will be needed across the country. The Nursing Community Coalition remains committed to working with our members, Congress, and the Administration to communicate those needs and continue our solidarity in combating COVID-19.

The Nursing Community Coalition includes 63 national nursing organizations that are the cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the profession. Collectively, the coalition represents registered nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, nurse faculty, nurse leaders, researchers, and students, who are all vital in addressing the public health challenges facing our communities. The coalition is committed to promoting efforts that advance the health of our nation through nursing care.