



July 29, 2024

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
Vice Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Murray and Vice Chair Collins:

On behalf of all 64 member organizations of the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC), we commend the Committee's ongoing bipartisan discussions on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 appropriations bills. As you consider the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (LHHS-ED) portfolio, we reiterate our request for at least \$530 million for Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.]) and at least \$210 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR, National Institutes of Health (NIH)) in FY 2025. As the largest segment of the health care profession,¹ nursing is involved at every point of care. Funding for these essential programs continues to be a top priority, especially as we contend with an aging population and increased need for nurses throughout the country.

The Nursing Community Coalition is a cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the nursing profession. Together, the NCC represents Registered Nurses (RNs), Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs),² nurse leaders, boards of nursing, students, faculty, and researchers. We recognize that supporting health care in all communities, including in our rural and underserved areas, requires continued investments in nursing. This is especially true as the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) projects the demand for RNs will increase 6% by 2032,³ and the demand for most APRNs is expected to grow by 38%.⁴

Unfortunately, the House's LHHS-ED appropriations bill proposes overall cuts to Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs, the elimination of the Nursing Workforce Diversity Program, and consolidation of NINR as part of an overall NIH restructuring effort. Now is not the time to reduce these essential programs. Bold investments in our Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs and

¹ Smith, Sean and Blank, Andrew. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (June 2023) Healthcare Occupations: Characteristics of the Employed. Slide Two: Employment in the 25 largest healthcare occupations, 2022. Retrieved from: <https://www.bls.gov/spotlight/2023/healthcare-occupations-in-2022/>

² APRNs include certified nurse-midwives (CNMs), certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs), clinical nurse specialists (CNSs), and nurse practitioners (NPs)

³ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2024). Occupational Outlook Handbook- Registered Nurses. Retrieved from: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/registered-nurses.htm>

⁴ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2024). Occupational Outlook Handbook- Nurse Anesthetists, Nurse Midwives, and Nurse Practitioners. Retrieved from: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/nurse-anesthetists-nurse-midwives-and-nurse-practitioners.htm>

NINR are critical, not only as we address the current needs of the profession, but as we prepare for the health care needs of tomorrow.

As the largest dedicated federal funding for nurses, the Title VIII Programs have bolstered and sustained the nation's diverse nursing pipeline by addressing all aspects of nursing workforce demand. From scholarship and loan repayments, to supporting APRNs and future faculty, each program under Title VIII is unique and plays an essential role in supporting our nursing workforce. Funding for Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs must meet levels reflecting the nursing population it serves, as these programs connect patients with high-quality nursing care in community health centers, hospitals, long-term care facilities, local and state health departments, schools, workplaces, and patients' homes. With more than four and a half million nurses throughout the country,⁵ we strongly urge historic support for all the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs in FY 2025.

We have also seen the importance of science in the discussion of cures and preparedness. As the only Institute or Center at NIH that directly supports research by our nurse scientists, NINR promotes patient-centered care across the life continuum. The translational research by our nation's nurses and scientists is essential to developing new evidence-based practices to care for all patients. Through increased investments in NINR, they will be able to continue their vital work at the forefront of disease prevention, patient care, and recovery.

As you support America's health, we urge you to invest in our nation's nurses by providing at least \$530 million for Nursing Workforce Development Programs and at least \$210 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research in FY 2025. If our organizations can be of any assistance, or if you have any questions, please contact the Nursing Community Coalition's Executive Director, Rachel Minahan at rstevenson@thenursingcommunity.org.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
Academy of Neonatal Nursing
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners
American Academy of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
American Association of Heart Failure Nurses
American Association of Neuroscience Nurses
American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American Association of Occupational Health Nurses
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 Psychiatric Nurses Association

⁵ National Council of State Boards of Nursing. (2024). Active RN Licenses: A profile of nursing licensure in the U.S. as of July 29, 2024. Retrieved from: <https://www.ncsbn.org/6161.htm>

American Public Health Association, Public Health Nursing Section
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
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 Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence
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:

Members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations