



November 18, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
House Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, and Leader Jeffries,

On behalf of all 64 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC), and as you continue the appropriations process ahead of the December 20th deadline, we respectfully request that you support **at least \$310.472 million for Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs** (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.]) and **at least \$197.693 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)**, as outlined in the bipartisan Senate Appropriations Committee passed bill. Passing a federal budget this year is essential to supporting our current and future nurses who are vital to the health of our nation. We urge Congress to continue the strong commitment to nursing education, workforce, and research by supporting these funding levels for Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs and NINR in FY 2025.

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),¹ nurse leaders, boards of nursing, students, faculty, and researchers. As the largest segment of the health care profession,² nursing is involved at every point of care. 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

¹ APRNs include certified nurse-midwives (CNMs), certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs), clinical nurse specialists (CNSs) and nurse practitioners (NPs).

² 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/>

6% by 2033,³ and the demand for most APRNs is expected to grow by 40%.⁴ With an aging population and increased need for nurses throughout the country, bold investments in our Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs and 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. Therefore, with more than four and a half million nurses throughout the country,⁵ we strongly urge increased support for these 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 we support America's health, we urge you to **invest in our nation's nurses by providing at least \$310.472 million for Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs and at least \$197.693 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) in FY 2025.** We appreciate your work to finalize FY 2025 this year and safeguard the public's well-being by putting forward bold investments for these critical 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 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

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>

⁵ National Council of State Boards of Nursing. (2024). Active RN Licenses: A profile of nursing licensure in the U.S. Retrieved from: <https://www.ncsbn.org/nursing-regulation/national-nursing-database/licensure-statistics/active-rn-licenses.page>

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 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
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:

Chair Patty Murray, Senate Appropriations Committee

Vice Chair Susan Collins, Senate Appropriations Committee

Chair Tammy Baldwin, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

Ranking Member Shelley Moore Capito, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

Chairman Tom Cole, House Appropriations Committee

Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro, House Appropriations Committee

Chair Robert Aderholt, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies