



House Energy and Commerce Committee Advances Nursing Priorities that Impact Public Health

September 17, 2021 – As Congress continues to consider its \$3.5 trillion Build Back Better Act, the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC), commends the House Energy and Commerce Committee for putting forward and advancing nursing priorities that address public health, as well as investing billions in pandemic preparedness initiatives. These essential resources are integral as we support the health of our nation and our nursing workforce. The NCC is proud to see the following provisions incorporated in the Committee’s recommendations:

- **Support for Nursing Education Pathways:**
 - \$1 billion for nursing education enhancement and modernization grants to support the needs of nursing students, help retain and hire diverse faculty, modernize nursing education infrastructure, and create and expand clinical education.

- **Invest in Federal Programs that Support Current and Future Nursing Workforce**
 - \$300 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.

- **Includes Major Provisions from the Omnibus Act (H.R. 959/S. 346):**
 - \$150 million to grow and diversify the nursing workforce in maternal and perinatal health;
 - \$100 million in Maternal Mental Health Equity grant programs;
 - \$85 million in funding for education and training at health professions schools to identify and address health risks associated with climate changes, including for pregnant, lactating, postpartum or individuals who are looking to become pregnant;
 - \$25 million in funding for antidiscrimination and bias training; and millions for other programs including promoting equity in maternal health outcomes through digital tools.

We appreciate the leadership of House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman, Frank Pallone (D-NJ-06), and members of the full committee for their dedication to our nursing workforce, to public health, and to pandemic preparedness. The NCC looks forward to working with Congress as they continue their efforts and remains committed to advancing provisions that support our nursing students, nurses, APRNs, and the patients they serve.

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.