



April 21, 2017

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

The 58 undersigned members of the Nursing Community respectfully request \$244 million for the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Nursing Workforce Development programs (authorized under Title VIII of the *Public Health Service Act* [42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.]) and \$160 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR), one of the 27 Institutes and Centers within the National Institutes of Health (NIH)¹ as you work to complete your FY 2018 appropriations bill.

The Nursing Community is a coalition which includes national professional nursing associations that are the cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the profession. These organizations are committed to promoting America's health through the contributions made by the nursing profession. As the largest segment of the healthcare workforce with over four million licensed Registered Nurses (RNs), Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), and nursing students, nurses are involved in every point of care and in every community.

For over 50 years, the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs have helped to build the supply and distribution of qualified nurses to meet our nation's healthcare needs. Title VIII programs provide students and practicing nurses exposure to caring for underserved populations. With over 65.9 million individuals living in HRSA-designated primary care Health Professional Shortage Areas, these programs are vital to sustaining and creating access. **The Nursing Community requests \$244 million for HRSA's Nursing Workforce Development programs in FY 2018.**

¹ The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research requests at least \$2 billion above FY2017 for NIH, in addition to funds included in the *21st Century Cures Act* for targeted initiatives. The request level of \$160 million for NINR denotes the same percentage increase for NIH applied to NINR.

As one of the 27 Institutes and Centers at the NIH, NINR funds research that lays the groundwork for evidence-based nursing practice. NINR's research examines a variety of topics that will help nurses and other health professionals to make informed decisions about patient treatment. Our country must look toward the prevention aspect of health care as the vehicle for saving our system from further financial burden, and the work of NINR embraces this endeavor through research related to care management of patients during illness and recovery, reduction of risks for disease and disability, promotion of healthy lifestyles, enhancement of quality of life for those with chronic illness, and care for individuals at the end of life. **The Nursing Community requests \$160 million for NINR in FY 2018.**

Commitment of resources to the HRSA Nursing Workforce Development programs and to NINR is vital to ensuring a healthy population for our country. We urge you to support our Fiscal Year 2018 requests. Please contact Suzanne Miyamoto, convener of the Nursing Community, at smiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu or 202-463-6930 ext. 247 for any additional assistance.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
American Academy of Nursing
American Assembly for Men in 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 Anesthetists
American Association of Nurse Assessment Coordination
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American Association of Occupational Health Nurses
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Nephrology Nurses Association
American Nurses Association
American Nursing Informatics Association
American Organization of Nurse Executives
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
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
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 American Arab Nurses Association
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 Black Nurses Association
National Council of State Boards of Nursing
National Gerontological Nursing Association
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
Society of Pediatric Nurses
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates
Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society

CC:

Senator Thad Cochran
Senator Richard Shelby
Senator Lamar Alexander
Senator Lindsey Graham
Senator Jerry Moran
Senator Shelley Moore Capito
Senator James Lankford
Senator John Kennedy
Senator Marco Rubio

Senator Richard Durbin
Senator Jack Reed
Senator Jeanne Shaheen
Senator Jeff Merkley
Senator Brian Schatz
Senator Tammy Baldwin
Senator Chris Murphy
Senator Joe Manchin