



March 16, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
United States Senate  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
United States Senate  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Murray and Ranking Member Blunt:

On behalf of the 60 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC), we respectfully request your support of **\$530 million for the Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.])** and **\$193 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR, National Institutes of Health) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2022**. As the nation continues to address COVID-19, it is imperative that funding for these programs reflects the heightened needs of our communities, especially as nurses across the country remain on the frontlines of this public health crisis. We appreciate the Subcommittee's strong commitment to nursing education, workforce, and research and urge you to take bold action by doubling funding to Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs and increasing NINR funding in FY 2022.

The Nursing Community Coalition is a cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the nursing profession representing Registered Nurses (RNs), Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs),<sup>1</sup> nurse leaders, students, faculty, and researchers. With more than four million nurses throughout the country, the NCC is committed to advancing the health of our nation through the nursing lens.<sup>2</sup> The nursing workforce is involved at every point of care, which is exemplified by nurses' heroic work during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As we continue to confront today's health care challenges and plan for tomorrow, increased federal resources for our nation's current and future nurses are even more imperative. Title VIII programs are instrumental in bolstering and sustaining the nation's diverse nursing pipeline by addressing all aspects of nursing workforce demand. In fact, the Bureau of Labor Statistics projected that by 2029 demand for RNs would increase 7%, illustrating an employment change of 221,900 nurses.<sup>3</sup> Further, the demand for

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

<sup>2</sup> National Council of State Boards of Nursing. (2021). Active RN Licenses: A profile of nursing licensure in the U.S. as of February 9, 2021. Retrieved from: <https://www.ncsbn.org/6161.htm>

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2019). Occupational Outlook Handbook- Registered Nurses. Retrieved from: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/registered-nurses.htm>

most APRNs is expected to grow by 45%.<sup>4</sup> This is just one example on why continued and elevated investments in Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs in FY 2022 is essential and will help nurses and nursing students have the resources to tackle our nation's health care needs, remain on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic, assist with the distribution and administration of the vaccine, and be prepared for the public health challenges of the future.

Now more than ever, we have witnessed the importance of science in the discussion of cures and preparedness. As one of the 27 Institutes and Centers at the National Institutes of Health, NINR's research is aimed at reducing burdensome chronic illness, improving end of life care, and promoting patient-centered care across the life continuum. Our nation's nurse researchers and scientists are 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.

During this unprecedented public health emergency, and as you work to develop FY 2022 spending levels, we urge you to **support \$530 million for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs and \$193 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research in FY 2022.** We appreciate the Subcommittee's strong commitment to nursing education, workforce, and research and urge you to continue to 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 Stevenson, at [rstenenson@thenursingcommunity.org](mailto:rstenenson@thenursingcommunity.org) or at 202-463-6930, ext. 271.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses  
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing  
Academy of Neonatal Nursing  
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 Anesthetists  
American Association of Nurse Practitioners  
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

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<sup>4</sup> U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2019). 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>

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  
Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Incorporated  
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 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:

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

Senator Lindsey Graham  
Senator Jerry Moran  
Senator Shelley Moore Capito  
Senator John Kennedy  
Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith  
Senator Mike Braun  
Senator Marco Rubio