



**Testimony of the Nursing Community Coalition
Prepared for the U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, and Education, and Related Agencies
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) &
National Institutes of Health (NIH)**

May 3, 2024

Submitted by the Nursing Community Coalition

We recognize how crucial federal investments for the nursing workforce and the nursing pipeline are to our patients and the health of our nation. Given these realities, the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC) respectfully requests that Congress makes robust and bold investments in nursing education, workforce, and research in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 by supporting **at least \$530 million for the Nursing Workforce Development programs** (authorized under Title VIII of the *Public Health Service Act* [42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.] and administered by HRSA), and **at least \$210 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)**, one of the 27 Institutes and Centers within NIH.

The Nursing Community Coalition is comprised of national nursing organizations who work together to advance health care issues that impact nursing education, research, practice, and regulation. Collectively, the NCC represents Registered Nurses (RNs), Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs),¹ nurse leaders, boards of nursing, students, faculty, and scientists, as well as other nurses with advanced degrees. As the largest segment of the health care profession,² nursing is involved at every point of care. Together, we reiterate the bold request for increased funding for Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs and NINR.

Through the Nursing Lens: Providing Care to All Americans

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. As the largest dedicated funding for nursing, Title VIII programs are instrumental in bolstering and sustaining the nation's diverse nursing pipeline by addressing all aspects of nursing workforce demand. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) projects that by 2032 demand for RNs will increase 6%, illustrating an employment change of 177,400 nurses.³ Further, the demand for most APRNs is expected to grow by 38%.⁴ In fact, a recent American Nurses Foundation study found that 19% of nurses said they intend to leave their position in the next six months, and 27%

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

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are considering leaving.⁵ The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) unveiled their research, “Examining the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Burnout & Stress Among U.S. Nurses,” which found that approximately 100,000 RNs left the workforce during the pandemic and, another 610,388 RNs report an “intent to leave” by 2027 due to stress, burnout, and retirement.⁶ Given these realities, many look toward education to ensure the nursing pipeline remains strong. However, AACN’s most recent annual survey found that, “the primary barriers to accepting all qualified students at nursing schools continue to be insufficient clinical placement sites, faculty, preceptors, and classroom space, as well as budget cuts.”⁷

Funding for Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs is essential 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. Each program under Title VIII is unique and plays an important role in supporting our nursing workforce. For example, in Academic Year 2022-2023, the Advanced Nursing Education programs, which help APRN students and nurses to practice on the frontlines and in rural and underserved areas throughout the country, supported more than 8,000 students, many of whom were trained in medically underserved areas and primary care settings.⁸ It is essential to have a health care workforce that reflects today’s population. As we work to create a more equitable health care system, the Nursing Workforce Diversity program is a key component, as this program has helped support more than 2,000 nursing students from racial and ethnic minorities who are underrepresented in the profession to become nurses and APRNs.⁹ Further, programs like the Nurse, Education, Practice, Quality and Retention (NEPQR) aim to, “support developing, distributing, and retaining a diverse, culturally competent nursing workforce that can adapt to the population’s changing health care needs and provide the highest quality of care for all.”¹⁰ In Academic Year 2022-2023, more than 10,300 nurses and nursing students were supported under NEPQR.¹¹

Together, Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs serve a vital need and help to ensure that we have a robust nursing workforce that is prepared to respond to public health threats and ensure the health and safety of all Americans. With more than four and half million nurses throughout the country,¹² we strongly urge historic support for these programs in FY

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2025. Therefore, the Nursing Community Coalition respectfully **requests at least \$530 million for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs in FY 2025.**

Improving Patient Care Through Scientific Research and Innovation:

For more than thirty years, scientific endeavors funded at the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) have been essential to advancing the health of individuals, families, and communities. NINR’s research is aimed at reducing the impact of social determinants of health and creating a more equitable health care system by promoting 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. It is imperative that we continue to support the necessary scientific research, which is why the **Nursing Community Coalition respectfully requests at least \$210 million for NINR in FY 2025.**

Now, more than ever, it is vital that we have the resources to ensure our nursing workforce is ready to address the health care needs of the nation. Investing in Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs and NINR are essential to meeting that need. By providing bold funding for Title VIII and NINR, Congress can continue to reinforce and strengthen the foundational care nurses provide daily in communities across the country. Thank you for your support of these crucial programs.

58 Members of the Nursing Community Coalition Submitting this Testimony

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- Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
- American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
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National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of School Nurses
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
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Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Society of Pediatric Nurses
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates
Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nurses Society



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