

April XX, 2019

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

We respectfully request that the Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act, administered by HRSA) receive \$266 million in Fiscal Year 2020 through the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies appropriations bill. An investment in our nursing workforce today is a commitment to America's health care now and into the future.

Now, more than ever, it is essential that communities across the nation have access to safe, high-quality nursing care. For over five decades, the Title VIII programs have been helping to train our nation's nursing workforce. The programs bolster nursing education at all levels, from entry-level preparation through graduate study, and support academic institutions and the nurse faculty who prepare today's nursing students to be tomorrow's expert clinicians.

Title VIII Nursing Workforce and Development Programs connect patients with nursing care across a variety of settings, including community health centers, hospitals, and schools of nursing. For example, in Academic Year 2016-2017 the Title VIII Advanced Nurse Education Program supported 10,537 students, including those in Advanced Nursing Education (ANE), Advanced Education Nursing Traineeships (AENT), and Nurse Anesthetist Traineeships (NAT). 80 percent of AENT recipients were trained in primary care settings, and 75 percent of NAT recipients were trained in medically-underserved areas.

Title VIII programs also aim to promote a diverse nursing workforce to reflect an increasingly diverse patient population. In 2016-2017, the Nursing Workforce Diversity program supported 4,416 nursing students to promote the recruitment of individuals from racial and ethnic minorities underrepresented in registered nursing. Furthermore, these grantees partnered with 571 training sites to provide 7,800 clinical training experiences.

We sincerely appreciate your consideration of our request and understand the difficult decisions your Subcommittee will face in this fiscal climate. However, support for each of the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs is a direct investment in the nursing workforce, our nation's well-being, and the sustainability of our health care system.

Sincerely,