

Sample Letter to Legislators
Issue: Nurse Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII)

1234 Main Street
Boston, Massachusetts 09876

October 1, 2013

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Warren,

My name is Mary Smith and I am a dermatology nurse living and working in Boston, Massachusetts. As a constituent, I am writing today to urge you to support funding for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Specifically, the nursing community has come together with a request of \$251 million for the Nursing Workforce Development Programs in fiscal year (FY) 2015. These programs are critical to ensuring an adequate supply of trained nurses to meet our nation's needs.

The Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs support the recruitment, education, and retention of nurses. Since the program's inception 50 years ago, this funding has supported advanced education nursing; workforce diversity; nurse education, practice, and retention, the National Nurse Service Corps; the Nurse Faculty Loan Program; and comprehensive geriatric education. At a time when the nursing workforce shortage is growing – the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that the shortage will reach more than 1 million unfilled RN spots, a shortage of 36 percent – and the nation is experiencing growing health needs due to an aging population and expanded health coverage under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), it is more critical than ever that the Title VIII programs are adequately funded.

As a practicing dermatology nurse, I see the impact of the nursing shortage on my patients every day. Because we have fewer staff members at the Boston Dermatology Clinic, our patients face greater difficulties in obtaining appointments and often face longer waits once they arrive for the appointment. We need to Congress to ensure that a patient's access to needed care is not be limited by a nursing workforce shortage.

Additionally, having been the recipient of a Nurse Faculty Loan myself, I know first-hand the great impact these programs have on the education of nurses. The loan helped me to further my own education, and as a faculty member, impart knowledge to the next generation of our nation's nurses.

I am aware that Congress currently faces hard economic decisions and that you are approached by many worthy causes. I hope that you will keep the Nursing Workforce Development programs a priority as the FY 2015 funding process moves forward. Thank you for your attention to my request, and I am happy to serve as a resource to you and your staff on any nursing or dermatology-related issues.

Sincerely,

Mary Smith