



April XX, 2022

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chairwoman
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 Chairwoman Murray and Ranking Member Blunt:

On behalf of the XX 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 **\$210 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR, National Institutes of Health) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023**. As the nation evaluates the lessons learned from COVID-19, it is imperative that funding for these nursing programs reflects the stark 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 supporting robust funding to the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs and increasing NINR funding in FY 2023.

The Nursing Community Coalition is a cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the nursing profession. Together, the NCC represents Registered Nurses (RNs), Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs),¹ nurse leaders, students, faculty, and researchers. As the largest segment of the health care profession,² nursing is involved at every point of care, which was further exemplified during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We all have witnessed the immense impact this public health emergency has had on our nursing students and workforce. In fact, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) projected that by 2030 demand for RNs would increase 9%, illustrating an employment change of 276,800 nurses.³ Further, the demand for most APRNs is expected to grow by 45%.⁴ The need for nurses and APRNs is not only outlined by BLS,

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

² United States Census Bureau. (2021) Who are our Health Care Workers? Retrieved from: <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2021/04/who-are-our-health-care-workers.html>

³ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2021). Occupational Outlook Handbook- Registered Nurses. Retrieved from: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/registered-nurses.htm>

⁴ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2021). 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>

but can be seen in communities across the nation, including rural and underserved areas. In fact, the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses outlined, “92% of nurses surveyed said they believe the pandemic has depleted nurses at their hospitals and, as a result, their careers will be shorter than they intended.”⁵ Further, the American Nurses Foundation’s second COVID-19 impact study noted that 52% of nurses during the pandemic considered leaving their position, up from 30% a year earlier!⁶ If that was not enough, “more than one-fifth of all nurses reported they plan to retire from nursing over the next five years.”⁷

Bold investments in our Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs are critical, not only as we address the current needs of the profession, but as we prepare for the health care needs of tomorrow. As the largest dedicated funding for our current and future nurses, the Title VIII programs have helped bolster and sustain the nation’s diverse nursing pipeline by addressing all aspects of nursing workforce demand. With an aging workforce, aging population, and need to support our frontline providers, funding for Title VIII must meet levels reflecting the nursing population it serves. Therefore, with more than four million nurses throughout the country,⁸ we strongly urge historic support for these programs in FY 2023.

Throughout the pandemic, we have also seen 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 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 nurse and scientists is 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.

As you work to develop FY 2023 spending levels, we urge you to invest in our nation’s nurses and **support \$530 million for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs and \$210 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research in FY 2023.** We appreciate the Subcommittee’s strong commitment to nursing education, workforce, and research and respectfully ask that you 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 rstevenson@thenursingcommunity.org or at 202-463-6930, ext. 271.

Sincerely,

CC:

Senator Richard Durbin
Senator Jack Reed
Senator Jeanne Shaheen
Senator Jeff Merkley
Senator Brian Schatz

⁵ American Association of Critical-Care Nurses. (2021). Hear Us Out Campaign. Retrieved from: <https://www.aacn.org/newsroom/hear-us-out-campaign-reports-nurses-covid-19-reality>

⁶ American Nurses Foundation. (2022). Pulse on the Nation’s Nurses Survey Series: COVID-19 Two-Year Impact Assessment Survey. Retrieved from: <https://www.nursingworld.org/~492857/contentassets/872ebb13c63f44f6b11a1bd0c74907c9/covid-19-two-year-impact-assessment-written-report-final.pdf>

⁷ National Council of State Boards of Nursing and the National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers (2021) The 2020 National Nursing Workforce Survey. Retrieved from: [https://www.journalofnursingregulation.com/article/S2155-8256\(21\)00027-2/fulltext](https://www.journalofnursingregulation.com/article/S2155-8256(21)00027-2/fulltext)

⁸ 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>

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

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