



April 2, 2014

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Senate LHHSE-ED Appropriations Subcommittee
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Ranking Member
Senate LHHSE-ED Appropriations Subcommittee
361A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Moran,

On behalf of the 48 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community coalition, we respectfully request **\$251 million for the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Nursing Workforce Development programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act [2 U.S.C. 296 et seq.]), \$150 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR, National Institutes of Health), and \$20 million for the Nurse-Managed Health Clinics (NMHCs, Title III of the Public Health Service Act) in your Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHSE-ED) appropriations bill.** Collectively, the Nursing Community represents nearly one million registered nurses (RNs), advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), nurse executives, nursing students, faculty, and researchers. Our organizations collaborate to advance sound policy decisions that promote improvements to our nation's healthcare system.

America's healthcare delivery system lies at a critical juncture. The rising demand for services, precipitated by a growing number of newly-insured patients and an aging population, calls for a greater number of highly-educated nurses. Yet, without strong investments to support nursing education, research, and practice, the nursing pipeline is unsustainable.

A 2014 projection from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' *2013-2014 Employment Outlook Handbook* anticipates that the number of practicing RNs will grow by 19% by year 2022. This projection is exacerbated not only by patient demands, but by anticipated retirements in the nursing workforce. In fact, a 2013 HRSA report *The U.S. Nursing Workforce: Trends in Supply and Education* indicates that over the next 10 to 15 years, the nearly one million RNs over age 50 (comprising approximately one-third of the current workforce), will reach retirement age. Therefore, it is essential that the Subcommittee prioritizes investments in the Title VIII programs so that future generations of nurses can be prepared to alleviate this need.

The work of NINR contributes to the body of evidence-based nursing science. Research projects funded through NINR are aimed at reducing burdensome chronic illness, improving quality of life, and promoting patient-centered care. From this perspective, NINR's unique focus on health promotion and disease prevention provide the cornerstone for advancing health and wellness.

Lastly, NMHCs offer critical access to healthcare services, often in areas experiencing a shortage of clinicians. While managed by APRNs, NMHCs are staffed by an interdisciplinary team of healthcare

providers, which may include physicians, social workers, public health nurses, and therapists. In addition, these clinics often dually serve as clinical training sites for a multitude of health professions.

Again, we respectfully request that you commit to improving the nursing workforce and the health of our nation by supporting the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs at \$251 million, NINR at \$150 million, and the NMHCs at \$20 million as you complete FY 2015 LHHS-ED appropriations bill. If our organizations can be of any assistance, please contact Convener of the Nursing Community, Dr. Suzanne Miyamoto, at Smiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu or 202-463-6930, ext. 247.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
American Academy of Nursing
American Assembly for Men in 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 Assessment Coordination
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Nephrology Nurses Association
American Nurses Association
American Organization of Nurse Executives
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Society for Pain Management Nursing
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses
Association of Public Health Nurses
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service
Dermatology Nurses' Association
Developmental Disabilities Nurses Association
Emergency Nurses Association
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
Infusion Nurses Society
International Society of Psychiatric Nursing
National American Arab Nurses Association
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Neonatal Nurses
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of School Nurses
National Black Nurses Association

National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers
National Nursing Centers Consortium
National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs
Oncology Nursing Society
Preventive Cardiovascular Nursing Association
Public Health Nursing Section, American Public Health Association
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates
Quad Council of Public Health Nursing Organizations

CC:

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
The Honorable Patty Murray
The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
The Honorable Mary L. Landrieu
The Honorable Jack Reed
The Honorable Mark Pryor
The Honorable Jon Tester
The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
The Honorable Jeff Merkley
The Honorable Richard C. Shelby
The Honorable Thad Cochran
The Honorable Lamar Alexander
The Honorable Lindsey Graham
The Honorable Mark Kirk
The Honorable Mike Johanns
The Honorable John Boozman