



Testimony of the Nursing Community
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education,
and Related Agencies
Department of Health and Human Services
Health Resources and Services Administration, National Institutes of Health

May 6, 2013

The undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community, a forum comprised of 58 national professional nursing associations, respectfully submit this testimony to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies. The Nursing Community works collaboratively to build consensus and advocate on a wide spectrum of healthcare and nursing issues surrounding practice, education, and research. Our organizations are committed to promoting America's health through the advancement of the nursing profession. Collectively, the Nursing Community represents nearly one million registered nurses (RNs), advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs-including certified nurse-midwives, nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, and certified registered nurse anesthetists), nurse executives, nursing students, nursing faculty, and nurse researchers.

For FY 2014, the Nursing Community respectfully requests \$251 million for the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Nursing Workforce Development programs (authorized under Title VIII of the *Public Health Service Act* [42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.]), \$150 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR, one of the 27 centers and institutes of the National Institutes of Health), and \$20 million in authorized funding for the Nurse-Managed Health Clinics (NMHCs, Title III of the *Public Health Service Act*). These investments are critical to ensuring that high-quality nursing services are delivered nation-wide.

The Demand for Nursing Continues to Outgrow Supply

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) projects that the total number of additional nurses will rise dramatically. In its report *Employment Projections: 2010-2020*, the BLS reveals that the expected number of practicing nurses will grow from 2.74 million in 2010 to 3.45 million in 2020, an increase of 712,000 or 26%. The projections further explain the need for 495,500 replacements in the nursing workforce, bringing the total number of job openings for nurses due to growth and replacements to 1.2 million by 2020.

Two primary factors contribute to this overwhelming projection. First, America's nursing workforce is aging. According to the 2013 HRSA report *The U.S. Nursing Workforce: Trends in Supply and Demand*, of the 2.8 million RNs currently practicing in our nation, 34.9% are over the age of 50, and 8.5% are over the age of 60. As the economy continues to rebound, many of these nurses will

seek retirement, leaving behind a significant deficit in the number of experienced nurses in the workforce. Secondly, America's Baby Boomer population is aging. It is estimated that over 80 million Baby Boomers reached age 65 last year. This population will require a vast influx of nursing services, particularly in areas of primary care and chronic illness management.

Concurrently, tens of thousands of qualified applications are turned away from nursing school each year. According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing's 2012-2013 survey on enrollment and graduations, 79,659 qualified applications were turned away from entry-level baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs in 2012 alone. Nursing schools report that faculty vacancies, alongside a lack of funding and clinical training sites, are a primary reason that prevents schools from maximizing student enrollment. Moreover, a special survey on nursing faculty vacancy conducted by AACN for the 2012-2013 academic year reveals an average vacancy rate of 7.6% for full-time positions and 6.8% for part-time positions within baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs across the country.

A significant investment must be made in the education of new nurses to provide the nation with the nursing services it demands.

How Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs Support the Supply of Nurses

For nearly five decades, the Nursing Workforce Development programs have helped build the supply and distribution of qualified nurses to meet our nation's healthcare demands. The Title VIII programs support nursing education at all levels, and are designed to address specific needs of patient populations as well as those within the nursing workforce.

These programs are vital to expediting the number of nurses entering into the workforce pipeline. AACN's 2012-2013 *Title VIII Student Recipient Survey*, which gathers information about Title VIII dollars and their impact on nursing students, demonstrates that Title VIII programs played a critical role in persuading students to enroll in nursing school. This survey, which included responses from over 1,100 students, reveals that 74% of the respondents receiving Title VIII funding are currently attending school full-time. By supporting full-time students, these programs help to ensure that students enter the workforce without delay.

Lastly, Title VIII programs help increase access to care in areas experiencing shortages in the number of health professionals and health services. The *Title VIII Student Recipient Survey* reveals that nearly 21% of student respondents intend to practice in a community hospital, and 22.7% of respondents plan to practice in public health or in a rural or underserved area upon graduation. Furthermore, many of these students also report that due to Title VIII assistance, they are able to pursue a career in geographic areas where salary is not as competitive, but where the demand for nursing services is great.

The Nursing Community respectfully requests \$251 million for the Nursing Workforce Development programs authorized under Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act in FY 2014. The Nursing Community recognizes that Congress is faced with difficult decisions surrounding federal deficit reduction, however we believe this amount is critical in ensuring the nursing workforce can meet the national demand for nursing services.

Advancing Nursing Science through the National Institute of Nursing Research

Research conducted at the NINR contributes to the advancement of nursing science that is translated into evidence-based practice. Initiatives funded through NINR center around increasing health promotion, reducing rates of chronic illness and transmissible disease, and improving patient quality of life. More specifically, NINR investigates unique ways to integrate the patient experience into health practices that empower patients and their families toward these goals. This includes efforts to improve symptom management related to chronic disease, reduce suffering at the end of life, and understand how genomics impact disease processes for specific populations. While other healthcare research focuses on curing disease, a large portion of NINR's work is aimed at preventing disease. This work is fundamental to our healthcare system's endeavor of providing high-quality care in a cost-effective manner by mitigating burdensome costs associated with treatment.

Moreover, NINR helps to provide needed faculty to support the education of future generations of nurses. Training programs at NINR develop future nurse-researchers, many of whom also serve as faculty in our nation's nursing schools. ***The Nursing Community respectfully requests \$150 million for the NINR in FY 2014.***

Nurse-Managed Health Clinics: Expanding Access to Care

Run by an APRN and staffed by an interdisciplinary team, NMHCs provide essential primary care services in communities across the country. These clinics are often associated with a school, college, university, department of nursing, federally qualified health center, or independent nonprofit healthcare agency. NMHCs can be found in medically underserved regions of the country, including rural communities, Native American reservations, senior citizen centers, elementary schools, and urban housing developments. Nurses and other health professionals who work in NMHCs serve as educators to patients and their families by teaching healthy lifestyle practices and promoting disease prevention. By providing early assessment and intervention for patients who are often most vulnerable to co-morbidities, NMHCs help manage medical conditions that have the potential to transpire into acute events. As a result, NMHCs help patients out of the emergency room, thereby improving patient outcomes and saving the healthcare system millions of dollars annually.

Furthermore, NMHCs serve as clinical education training sites for nursing students and other health professionals—a crucial aspect of NMHCs given that a lack of training sites is commonly identified as a barrier to nursing school enrollment. An increasing emphasis on interdisciplinary care delivery necessitates that health professionals begin their training in an environment conducive to collaborative work. Many NMHCs serve as clinical training sites for nurses, physicians, social workers, public health nurses, and therapists to foster patient-centered care early on in their practice. ***The Nursing Community respectfully requests \$20 million for the Nurse-Managed Health Clinics authorized under Title III of the Public Health Service Act in FY 2014.***

Without a workforce of well-educated nurses providing evidence-based care to those who need it most, including our growing aging population, the healthcare system is not sustainable. The Nursing Community's request of \$251 million for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs, \$150 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research, and \$20 million for Nurse-Managed Health Clinics in FY 2014 will help ensure access to quality care provided by America's nursing workforce.

Members of the Nursing Community Submitting this Testimony

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
American Academy of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists
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 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 Rehabilitation Nurses
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service
Dermatology Nurses' Association
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association
Infusion Nurses Society
International Association of Forensic Nurses
International Society of Psychiatric Nursing
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Neonatal Nurses
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Black Nurses Association
National Nursing Centers Consortium
National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
Oncology Nursing Society
Pediatric Endocrinology Nursing Society
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Public Health Nursing Section, American Public Health Association
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates
The Quad Council of Public Health Nursing Organizations
Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society