



## **Nursing Community Coalition Opposes President's Cuts to Nursing Workforce and Research in FY 2021 Budget Proposal**

Monday, February 10, 2020—The Nursing Community Coalition, which includes 63 national nursing organizations, is deeply disappointed to see the severe cuts made to key domestic and health care programs in the Administration's Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 budget, "A Budget for America's Future." Released earlier today, this budgetary blueprint stops short in meeting the nation's growing demand for nursing workforce and research, especially as health care needs in our country continue to grow.

Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act), are one such example where federal investment in nursing education and workforce are critical to the health of our nation. Under this budgetary proposal, all Title VIII programs, except the NURSE Corps, are eliminated. This would result in a \$176.837 million or 68.02% reduction. With over four-million licensed Registered Nurses (RNs), Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), and nursing students across the country, this unwarranted proposed cut to Title VIII programs would directly and adversely impact nursing education, recruitment, practice, and retention.

In addition to the elimination of these programs, which are a part of the overall \$9.5 billion decrease to the Department of Health and Human Services, the President's Budget also cuts nearly \$3 billion from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This includes a reduction in the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) funding to \$156.804 million in FY 2021. The NCC fiercely opposes these cuts, especially to NINR, as nursing science and research transforms how care is delivered, how future cures are discovered, and how transformative practices change lives for the better. The steep decrease in both NIH and NINR funding creates an unwarranted barrier to new, existing, and life-saving innovations.

While the NCC is disappointed to see these harmful cuts, we are encouraged to see the Administration broaden the set of primary care providers for beneficiary assignment for accountable care organizations to include nurse practitioners (NPs) and clinical nurse specialists (CNS's), among others. Additionally, we are pleased to see support for the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, additional funding for nurses in Indian Health Services, and recognition of the need of increased access to health care and telehealth technology in rural America.

The Nursing Community Coalition will be working with Members of Congress to pass a budget that sustains and elevates the health of our nation, while taking direct steps to spur scientific discovery and increase access to the care patients need and deserve.

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*The Nursing Community Coalition includes 63 national nursing organizations that are the cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the profession. Collectively, the coalition represents registered nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, nurse faculty, nurse executives, researchers, and students. The coalition is committed to promoting efforts that advance the health of our nation through nursing care.*