



February 14, 2011

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
Longworth House Office Building
Room 1011
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
Cannon House Office Building
Room 235
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Majority Whip
Cannon House Office Building
Room 326
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Minority Whip
Longworth House Office Building
Room 1705
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Chairman
House Committee on the Budget
Longworth House Office Building
Room 1233
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
Ranking Member
House Committee on the Budget
Longworth House Office Building
Room 1707
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
Rayburn House Office Building
Room 2406
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norm Dicks
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Rayburn House Office Building,
Room 2467
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Denny Rehberg
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on LHHS
Rayburn House Office Building
Room 2448
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on LHHS
Rayburn House Office Building
Room 2413
Washington, DC 20515

Dear House Leadership:

The 42 undersigned members of the Nursing Community, a forum of national professional nursing associations that build consensus and advocate on a wide spectrum of healthcare and nursing issues, write to express concern over proposed funding cuts to key nursing programs in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 Continuing Resolution (CR). While we recognize and appreciate fully the arduous task Congress faces in the finalizing the FY 2011 CR, we urge

lawmakers to continue supporting the programs critical to meeting the health demands of our nation, particularly those that support the nursing workforce.

The Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act) and the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) (one of the 27 institutes and centers at the National Institutes of Health) must sustain current funding levels as a cut would jeopardize the growth of the nursing workforce and nursing science. Nurses are the largest group of health professionals with a workforce that is approximately 3.1 million strong. From preventive to palliative care, acute and intensive care, chronic care management and public health, nursing expertise helps ensure Americans and their families have access to lifesaving and life-sustaining care. Additionally, the work of leading nurse researchers has contributed to interventions that improve patient outcomes and keep healthcare expenditures down.

Funding cuts to Title VIII and NINR would significantly hinder the work of the nation's most trusted professionals. Nurses will be needed to meet demand for care in the future and decreasing funding for nursing programs that build the Registered Nurse and Advanced Practice Registered Nurse workforce will limit access to care in the communities that need their services most. Moreover, given the demand for nurses, both Title VIII and NINR support the education of future nurse faculty. The current shortage of nurse faculty is a major factor that contributed to over 50,000 qualified applications being turned away from nursing schools last year.

The Nursing Community strongly believes that critical demand areas such as nursing should be protected from drastic cuts as Congress works to tackle the budget crisis. Nurses are vital providers that ensure quality care to all populations, including the most vulnerable. We appreciate your consideration of our request as you finalize the FY 2011 appropriations process.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
American Academy of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists
American Association of Nurse Assessment Coordinators
American College of Nurse Practitioners
American Nephrology Nurses' Association
American Nurses Association
American Organization of Nurse Executives
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Society for Pain Management Nursing
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
Asian American and Pacific Islander Nurses Association
Association of State and Territorial Directors of Nursing
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care

Association of periOperative Registered Nurses
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal 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 Nurses Society on Addictions
International Society of Psychiatric Nurses
National American Arab Nurses Association
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Coalition of Ethnic Minority Nurse Associations
National Nursing Centers Consortium
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
Oncology Nursing Society
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Public Health Nursing Section, American Public Health Association
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates
Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society