



July 30, 2012

Dear Appropriator,

The 44 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community would like to express deep concern regarding the proposed funding cuts to healthcare and nursing programs in the House FY 2013 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education (LHHS-ED), and Related Agencies appropriations bill. Collectively, the Nursing Community represents over 900,000 Registered Nurses (RN), Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), nursing students, and nursing faculty whose professional responsibility is to improve the health of our nation.

While we recognize the fiscal constraints under which Congress must work to allocate scarce resources, we urge you to consider the formidable impact decreased federal support for healthcare and nursing programs in FY 2013 would pose on the sustainability of quality patient care. It is our understanding that the full-committee mark-up has been postponed indefinitely, however, we urge you to vote no on this bill in its current form should it come before the full committee and/or the House floor.

This spending package would cut funding to health professions and nursing workforce programs that are critical to sustaining an effective healthcare delivery system. A reduction in funding to the Nursing Workforce Development programs (Title VIII of the *Public Health Service Act*) would result in fewer nursing students, practicing nurses, and nurse faculty members streaming into the workforce pipeline. According to the 2012 Bureau of Labor Statistics' Employment Projections 2010-2020, the expected number of RNs that will be needed in the workforce will grow to 1.2 million by 2020. Moreover, as the demand for primary and acute care steadily climbs, the need for APRNs will continue to grow. Complicating the ability to effectively develop the nursing workforce is the current and intensifying shortage of nurse faculty. The education and training of more nurses and faculty to meet this staggering demand requires a long-term investment.

We understand Congress faces unprecedented challenges to reduce the federal deficit, however, if our system aims to provide care for an aging population and reduce rates of chronic illness burdening our economy, proper investments in nursing and healthcare programs is not an option, but rather a necessity. We urge you to vote no on the FY 2013 LHHS-ED Appropriations bill should it come up for consideration. If you have any questions or for more information on the Nursing Community, please contact Suzanne Miyamoto at smiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing

American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
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 Nurse Anesthetists
American Association of Nurse Assessment Coordination
American College of Nurse Practitioners
American College of Nurse-Midwives
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
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses
Association of Public Health 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 Nursing
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 Black Nurses Association
National Gerontological Nursing Association
National Nursing Centers Consortium
National Organization of Associate Degree Nurses
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs
Oncology Nursing Society
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Public Health Nursing Section, American Public Health Association
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates