



August 3, 2017

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman
Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
LHHS-ED Appropriations Subcommittee

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
LHHS-ED Appropriations Subcommittee

Dear Chairmen Cochran and Blunt, and Vice Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Murray:

The Nursing Community strongly urges the Senate Appropriations Committee to **fund each of the Nursing Workforce Development programs, authorized under Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.) with at least FY 2017 levels** as you take up the fiscal year (FY) 2018 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations (LHHS-ED) bill. **We are deeply concerned with the House committee's approach of consolidating certain Title VIII programs and cutting critical investments in them. Consolidation would dilute the distinct mission of each program and jeopardize the lifelines that Title VIII provides communities across the country. We request that you fund all of Title VIII programs, which include:**

- Advanced Nursing Education (Sec. 811), which includes the Advanced Education Nursing Traineeships and Nurse Anesthetist Traineeships
- Nursing Workforce Diversity (Sec. 821)
- Nurse Education, Practice, Quality, and Retention (Sec. 831)
- Nurse Faculty Loan Program (Sec. 846A)
- Comprehensive Geriatric Education (Sec. 855)
- NURSE Corps Loan Repayment and Scholarship Programs (Sec. 846)

The Nursing Community, a coalition of 63 national nursing organizations, is the largest coalition representing nursing constituencies in America and represents the cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the profession. We believe that the healthcare delivery system should be one that promotes wellness, advances research through scientific discovery, and provides timely access to care. As a result, we know first-hand the critical assistance that Title VIII funding affords.

The Nursing Community recognizes the challenging fiscal climate and the difficult decisions that must be made by your Committee. **However, we urge you to help ensure America's health is a top priority by preserving funding for all of the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs.** If the Nursing Community can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Suzanne Miyamoto, at 202-463-6930 ext. 247 or smiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu.