



October 29, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Boehner
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David Obey
Chair, Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-
Education
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Todd Tiahrt
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor-
HHS-Education
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chair, Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-
Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor-
HHS-Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Madam Speaker, Leaders, Chairmen and Ranking Members:

On behalf of the Nursing Community, a forum of professional nursing organizations representing over 850,000 Registered Nurses (RNs), Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), nurse faculty, nursing students, and nurse researchers, the 37 undersigned organizations are writing to request your continued action on the fiscal year (FY) 2011 appropriations process and in doing so, fund the Nursing Workforce Development programs authorized under Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.) at the level of \$292.285 million provided by the Senate Appropriations Committee, with a similar level proposed by the House Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee for nursing education.

For 46 years, APRNs and RNs have relied upon support through Title VIII to complete their preparation and offset considerable educational expenses. The overall mission of the Title VIII programs focuses on preparing an APRN and RN workforce that can provide exceptional care to those in rural and medically underserved areas. **In the most basic terms, Title VIII helps to ensure that patients who desperately need access to health services receive quality nursing care.**

With the new health reform law focused on creating a system that will increase access to quality care and decrease cost, it is critical that a substantial investment be made in our healthcare workforce, particularly an investment in nurses. RNs and APRNs are vital to ensuring direct availability to high quality, cost-effective health care in a reformed system. Yet, the continuing shortage of nurses will significantly hinder the nation's healthcare reform goals.

Please know that the undersigned organizations understand and appreciate that the Congress has limited resources. However, without an adequate supply of nurses to care for our nation, including our growing aging population, the healthcare system is not sustainable. We thank you in advance for your consideration of our request for \$292.285 million in FY 2011 for the HRSA Nursing Workforce Development programs. Please know our organizations are available as resources for you and your colleagues on the nation's nursing shortage and related issues.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
American Academy of Nursing
American Association of College of Nursing
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists
American College of Nurse Practitioners
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Nurses Association
American Organization of Nurse Executives
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators
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
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association
Infusion Nurses Society
International Nurses Society on Addictions
International Society of Psychiatric Nursing
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of School Nurses
National Black Nurses Association
National Coalition of Ethnic Minority Nurse Associations
National Nursing Centers Consortium

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 for Pain Management Nursing
Society of Urologic Nursing & Associates
Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society

Cc: House and Senate Appropriations Committees