



Nursing Community Coalition Supports Increased Investments in Nursing Education, Workforce, and Research

December 22, 2020 – On behalf of the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC), we commend Congress for passing H.R. 133, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021. This legislation provides approximately \$900 billion in COVID-19 stimulus relief funding, as well as \$1.4 trillion in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 appropriations.

H.R. 133 appropriates \$264.472 million for Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs, an increase of \$4.5 million over FY 2020 enacted levels. In addition, this legislation includes \$174.957 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR), which is an increase of \$5.844 million over the previous fiscal year. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) received an overall allocation of \$42.934 billion for FY 2021. These investments, among others, in nursing education, workforce, and research are essential to ensuring the demand of nursing care is met today and in the future.

As the nation continues to combat the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the NCC recognizes the needs of our current and future nursing workforce as they respond to this public health crisis. The NCC is proud to see additional investments incorporated into the COVID-19 relief section of H.R. 133, including:

- Billions of dollars for equitable distribution of vaccines;
- \$25.4 billion for Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund to support testing, contact tracing, and other activities;
- \$22.94 billion for COVID-19 preparedness and response which includes \$3.25 billion for the Strategic National Stockpile;
- \$10 billion for child care assistance;
- \$4.25 billion for increased mental health and substance abuse services; and
- Various broadband and telehealth provisions and investments, among others.

The passage of H.R. 133 is an important step as we address the realities of this pandemic. The NCC remains committed to working with the 117th Congress and federal agencies to ensure nurses, patients, families, and communities have the resources needed to combat COVID-19. Further, the NCC sincerely thanks Congressional Leadership, the Senate and House Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee Chairs Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO) and Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), and Ranking Members Patty Murray (D-WA) and Tom Cole (R-OK), along with the full Appropriations Committees for their commitment to bolster the profession and the health of our

nation. The coalition looks forward to continuing our essential work supporting nursing education, workforce, and research initiatives in FY 2022 and beyond.

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 leaders, researchers, and students, who are all vital in addressing the public health challenges facing our communities. The coalition is committed to promoting efforts that advance the health of our nation through nursing care.