



February 12, 2026

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
Chair
United States Senate
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
Ranking Member
United States Senate
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chair
United States House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
United States House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cassidy, Ranking Member Sanders, Chairman Guthrie, and Ranking Member Pallone:

On behalf of all 65 Nursing Community Coalition (NCC) member organizations, we offer our strong, united support for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2025 (S.1874/H.R.3593). This bipartisan, bicameral bill is consistent with FY 2026 funding levels and provides vital resources to our current and future nursing workforce throughout the country. We encourage the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions and the House Committee on Energy and Commerce to consider and pass Title VIII reauthorization as part of any health care package this year.

Members of the NCC represent the cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the nursing profession and fully support this legislation's goal to reauthorize the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs. Representing a profession of more than five million licensed Registered Nurses (RNs),¹ Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs),² nurse leaders, boards of nursing, students, faculty, and researchers, the NCC embodies the drive and passion to continually improve care for patients, families, and communities.

We recognize that supporting health care in all communities, including in our rural and underserved areas, requires continued investment in nursing. The Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2025 does just that by ensuring these programs continue bolstering nursing education at all levels, supporting institutions that educate future nurses, helping recruit

¹ National Council of State Boards of Nursing. (2025). Active RN Licenses: A profile of nursing licensure in the U.S. Retrieved from: <https://www.ncsbn.org/nursing-regulation/national-nursing-database/licensure-statistics/active-rn-licenses.page>

² APRNs include certified nurse-midwives (CNMs), certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs), clinical nurse specialists (CNSs) and nurse practitioners (NPs).

and retain the nursing workforce, and ensuring the demand for nursing care is met throughout the nation. As the Committees are acutely aware, the need for nurses continues to grow. In fact, projections show that the demand for RNs will increase 5% by 2034,³ and for most APRNs by 35%.⁴ These needs are compounded by continued nurse staffing shortages and high workloads that strain the profession.

As the largest dedicated federal funding source for nurses, Title VIII programs offer a strategic and cost-effective approach to supporting the nursing workforce and patients across the country. For instance, in Academic Year (AY) 2022-2023:

- Advanced Nursing Education (ANE) programs supported more than 8,000 students and provided for “over 2 million hours of patient care and nearly 900,000 patient encounters [that] occurred in medically underserved communities.”⁵
- Graduates of Title VIII programs not only advance their education but also work in medically underserved areas. In fact, more than three-quarters of Nurse Corps providers were employed in community-based settings and 20% were in rural communities.⁶
- 74% of Nurse Faculty Loan Program (NFLP) graduates from AY 2021-2022 were in faculty positions one year later, with the majority teaching at the bachelor’s level or higher.⁷
- Programs like Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention (NEPQR), supported over 10,300 nurses and nursing students, help with the development, distribution, and retention of a nursing workforce that can adapt to the population’s changing health care needs and provide the highest quality of care for all.⁸

These examples illustrate the advantage these crucial programs have in recruiting and retaining nurses in the communities they serve. This straight reauthorization will continue the important legacy that Title VIII programs have in directly connecting patients with high-quality nursing care in community health centers, hospitals, long-term care facilities, local and state health departments, schools, workplaces, and patients’ homes.

As you work to support our nation’s health, the NCC strongly encourages the Committees to swiftly consider and advance the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2025 (S.1874/H.R.3593). If our organizations can be of any assistance, or if you have any questions, please contact the Nursing Community Coalition’s Executive Director, Rachel Minahan at rstevenson@thenursingcommunity.org.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
Academy of Neonatal Nursing

³ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2026). Occupational Outlook Handbook- Registered Nurses. Retrieved from: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/registered-nurses.htm>

⁴ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2026). Occupational Outlook Handbook- Nurse Anesthetists, Nurse Midwives, and Nurse Practitioners. Retrieved from: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/nurse-anesthetists-nurse-midwives-and-nurse-practitioners.htm>

⁵ Health Resources and Services Administration. Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Justification. Pages 143-146. Retrieved from: <https://web.archive.org/web/20250308124649/https://www.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/hrsa/about/budget/budget-justification-fy2025.pdf>

⁶ Ibid, Pages 157-161.

⁷ Ibid, Pages 154-156.

⁸ Ibid, Pages 151-153.

Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nurses
American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners
American Academy of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
American Association of Heart Failure Nurses
American Association of Neuroscience Nurses
American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American Association of Occupational Health Nurses
American Association of Post-Acute Care Nursing
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Nephrology Nurses Association
American Nurses Association
American Nursing Informatics Association
American Organization for Nursing Leadership
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association, Inc.
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Society for Pain Management Nursing
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
Association for Radiologic and Imaging Nursing
American Public Health Association, Public Health Nursing Section
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses
Association of Public Health Nurses
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
Association of Veterans Affairs Nurse Anesthetists
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service
Dermatology Nurses' Association
DNPs of Color
Emergency Nurses Association
Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association
Infusion Nurses Society
International Association of Forensic Nurses
International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Association of Hispanic Nurses
National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Neonatal Nurses
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 Council of State Boards of Nursing
National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers
National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence
National League for Nursing
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs
Oncology Nursing Society
Organization for Associate Degree Nursing
Pediatric Endocrinology Nursing Society
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Society of Pediatric Nurses
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates
Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nurses Society

cc:

All Members of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
All Members of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce
Senator Jeff Merkley
Senator Susan Collins
Senator Tammy Baldwin
Senator Marsha Blackburn
Senator Richard Blumenthal
Senator Chris Coons
Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
Senator Mark Kelly
Senator Adam Schiff
Senator Lisa Murkowski
Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith
Senator Lisa Blunt Rochester
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