November 12, 2026

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Thune
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
House Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Thune, Leader Jeffries, and Leader Schumer,

On behalf of the 66 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC), we urge you to support the following priorities that have been considered and advanced in committee this Congress and include them in any must-pass, end-of-year legislation. The NCC is a cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the nursing profession representing Registered Nurses (RNs), Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs),[1] nurse leaders, boards of nursing, students, faculty, and researchers who are foundational to the health of the nation. As the largest segment of the health care profession,[2] nursing is involved at every point of care, including rural, urban, and underserved areas, and is leading the way to ensure today's science translates to tomorrow's cures. We recognize how vital our current and future nurses are to the fabric of America's healthcare system.

As we near the end of the 119th Congress, we strongly support passage of our appropriations requests, along with the following legislative priorities that were considered and advanced by Congressional Committees and directly impact nursing education, workforce, and research:

- **Support at least $610 million for all Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs and at least $215 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2027**: As the largest dedicated federal funding for nurses, the Title VIII Programs are smart investments that bolster and sustain the nation's nursing pipeline by addressing all aspects of nursing workforce demand. As the only Institute or Center at NIH that directly supports research by nurse scientists, NINR promotes patient-centered care across the life continuum. The translational research by our nation's nurses and scientists at NINR and throughout NIH is essential to developing new evidence-based practices to care for all patients. With an aging

[1] APRNs include certified nurse-midwives (CNMs), certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs), clinical nurse specialists (CNSs) and nurse practitioners (NPs).
[2] Smith, Sean and Blank, Andrew. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (June 2023) Healthcare Occupations: Characteristics of the Employed. Slide Two: Employment in the 25 largest healthcare occupations, 2022. Retrieved from: https://www.bls.gov/spotlight/2023/healthcare-occupations-in-2022/

population, the need to support our frontline providers, and as we address ongoing chronic illnesses and promote innovative cures, funding for Title VIII Nursing Workforce Programs and NINR must meet levels reflecting the nursing and patient populations they serve.
Committees of Jurisdiction: House Appropriations Committee, Senate Appropriations Committee.

- **Pass Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act (H.R.3593/S.1874):** A bipartisan bill that provides a straight reauthorization of the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs through FY 2030 and allows existing funding to be used to support clinical education, nurse preceptors, and more faculty, as well as promoting academic-practice partnerships. On September 10, 2025, this legislation advanced out of the House Energy and Commerce's Health Subcommittee by a voice vote.[3] On July 22, 2026, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee advanced this legislation by a bipartisan vote of 21-1, after adopting two amendments supporting the need for more nurse faculty and state nursing workforce centers.[4]
  Committees of Jurisdiction: House Energy and Commerce Committee, Senate Health Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee.

- **Support Nursing as a Professional Degree:** We appreciate Congress' bipartisan engagement in support of nursing as a professional degree. Unfortunately, the Department of Education's Reimaging and Improving Student Education (RISE) final rule, released on May 1, 2026, excludes post-baccalaureate nursing degrees from the list of "professional" degrees. As we move forward, the NCC supports legislative efforts led by House and Senate Nursing Caucus leaders that address this issue, including:
  - **Nursing is a Professional Degree Act (H.R.8691/S.4568**): Led by Representative Jen Kiggans (R-VA-02) and Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR), these bipartisan bills explicitly adds nursing as a professional degree under the Higher Education Act.
    Committees of Jurisdiction: House Education and Workforce Committee, Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee.
  - **Congressional Review Act Joint Resolution (H.J.Res.189):** Led by Representatives Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR-01), Lauren Underwood (D-IL-14), and John Mannion (D-NY-22), this joint resolution would invalidate the Department of Education's final rule.
    Committee of Jurisdiction: House Education and Workforce Committee.

- **Pass the Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act of 2025 (H.R.3170/S.3296):** Retires outdated barriers in the Federal Employee's Compensation Act (FECA) that limit the ability of NPs to diagnose and oversee the care and treatment of federal employees who are injured or become ill in the course of their employment. This bill was passed out of the House Education and Workforce Committee unanimously in June 2025 and was passed out of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee by voice vote in September 2026.
  Committees of Jurisdiction: House Education and Workforce Committee, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

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[3] House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee Markup on September 10, 2025. Retrieved from: https://energycommerce.house.gov/posts/health-subcommittee-advances-public-health-reauthorization-bills-to-full-committee.

[4] Senate HELP Committee Executive Session on July 22, 2026. Retrieved from: https://www.help.senate.gov/hearings/the-following-agenda-to-be-considered-07-22-2026.

- **Pass the Promoting Access to Diabetic Shoes Act (H.R.1616/S.1805):** This bill authorizes nurse practitioners (NPs) to certify when their patients with diabetes meet the clinical criteria to qualify for therapeutic shoes, so that they can promptly be seen by a podiatrist or other qualified individual to be fit and furnished with this critical intervention.
  Committees of Jurisdiction: House Energy and Commerce and House Ways and Means Committees, Senate Finance Committee.

- **Pass the States Handling Access to Reciprocity for Employment (SHARE) Act (H.R.2332/S.1101):** This bipartisan legislation facilitates nurses' and healthcare providers' ability to provide care across state lines. The bill makes necessary technical corrections to current law to ensure states belonging to interstate occupational licensure compacts receive federal criminal background check information through a smooth and efficient process. This bill was passed out of the House Education and Workforce Committee unanimously in June 2026 and discharged from the House Judiciary Committee in September.
  Committees of Jurisdiction: House Education and Workforce and House Judiciary Committees, Senate Judiciary Committee.

With over five million licensed RNs, APRNs, and nursing students, the profession embodies the drive and passion to ensure the health of patients, families, and our country continues to improve.[5] Supporting the current and future nursing workforce is essential, especially given their impact on the healthcare system and to the public health of our nation. Therefore, we urge you to take legislative action and pass these bills before the end of this Congress. If our organizations can be of any assistance or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the coalition's Executive Director, Rachel Minahan, at rstevenson@thenursingcommunity.org.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
Academy of Neonatal Nursing
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
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

[5] National Council of State Boards of Nursing. (2026). Active RN Licenses: A profile of nursing licensure in the U.S. as of November 3, 2026. Retrieved from: https://www.ncsbn.org/active-rn-licenses.

American Organization for Nursing Leadership
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association, Inc.
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Public Health Association, Public Health Nursing Section
American Society for Pain Management Nursing
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
Association for Radiologic and Imaging Nursing
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 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 Consortium of Academic Nurse Educators, Inc.
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
NurseTRUST
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:
Chairman Tom Cole, House Committee on Appropriations
Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro, House Committee on Appropriations
Chair Susan Collins, Senate Committee on Appropriations
Vice Chair Patty Murray, Senate Committee on Appropriations
Chairman Brett Guthrie, House Committee on Energy and Commerce
Ranking Member Frank Pallone, House Committee on Energy and Commerce
Chairman Bill Cassidy, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Ranking Member Bernie Sanders, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Chairman Tim Walberg, House Committee on Education and Workforce
Ranking Member Robert C. "Bobby" Scott, House Committee on Education and Workforce
Chairman Rand Paul, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Ranking Member Gary Peters, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Chairman Jason Smith, House Committee on Ways and Means
Ranking Member Richard Neal, House Committee on Ways and Means
Chairman Mike Crapo, Senate Committee on Finance
Ranking Member Ron Wyden, Senate Committee on Finance
Chairman Jim Jordan, House Committee on the Judiciary
Ranking Member Jamie Raskin, House Committee on the Judiciary
Chairman Chuck Grassley, Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Ranking Member Dick Durbin, Senate Committee on the Judiciary