



October 29, 2026

The Honorable Lauren Underwood
2228 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Underwood:

On behalf of the 57 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC), we sincerely thank you for introducing the Educating Future Nurses Act (H.R.10410). 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. Together, the NCC appreciates the introduction of this important piece of legislation, and we urge its advancement and passage this year.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that the demand for APRNs will increase by 36% through 2035, representing about 32,200 job openings every year over the next decade.² The APRN workforce is critical to ensuring that patients have timely access to high quality care, particularly in rural and underserved communities, yet we do not have sufficient investment in nursing education at the federal level to meet the needs of today and tomorrow. This bill would help address this issue by establishing a National Graduate Nurse Education Program to expand educational opportunities for APRNs providing services to Medicare beneficiaries. Specifically, the bill would create a permanent funding stream within the Medicare program to facilitate partnerships between schools of nursing, hospitals, and community-based care settings to bolster the clinical training of APRNs.

The Educating Future Nurses Act builds on the success of the Graduate Nurse Education (GNE) Demonstration, which was operated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) from 2012 to 2018. The GNE Demonstration reimbursed five awardee hospitals located in different regions of the country for the reasonable and allowable costs of providing clinical education to additional APRN students from schools of nursing in their area. The findings from CMS's Final Evaluation Report for the Demonstration were highly promising. The participating schools of nursing saw average enrollment and graduation increases for APRNs of 54% and 67% per year respectively.³

¹ APRNs include certified nurse-midwives (CNMs), certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs), clinical nurse specialists (CNSs) and nurse practitioners (NPs).

² 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>

³ Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. (2019). The Graduate Nurse Education Demonstration Project: Final Evaluation Report. Retrieved from: <https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/files/reports/gne-final-eval-rpt.pdf>

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This bill would provide critical funding for nursing education. As organizations greatly concerned with the nation's APRN workforce shortage and patients' access to safe care, we urge you to advance and pass the Educating Future Nurses Act this Congress. If the Nursing Community Coalition can be of any assistance to you or your staff, 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 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
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses
Association of Public Health Nurses
Association of Rehabilitation 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 Council of State Boards of Nursing
National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers
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
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Society of Pediatric Nurses
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates
Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nurses Society

cc:

Representative Jen Kiggans

Representative Susan Bonamici