



July 18, 2017

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Lowey:

The Nursing Community strongly urges the House Appropriations Committee to maintain essential funding for **all Nursing Workforce Development programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act)** as you take up the fiscal year (FY) 2018 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations (LHHS-ED) bill tomorrow. The Nursing Community, a coalition of 63 national nursing organizations, is the largest coalition representing nursing constituencies in America and represents the cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the profession. We believe that the healthcare delivery system should be one that promotes wellness, advances research through scientific discovery, and provides timely access to care. As a result, we know first-hand the critical assistance that Title VIII funding affords.

For over five decades, Title VIII programs have contributed directly to the health and wellness of America by ensuring that its recipients are able to enter into the profession and provide care to diverse patient populations in a variety of settings, including primary care. These programs must be preserved and require appropriate and sustained funding to meet the growing demand for nursing services. **The proposed cuts of \$18.27 million to the Title VIII programs would have a devastating impact on nursing education, the workforce, and the patients nurses serve.**

We urge clarification on how the Committee seeks to fund the programs within Title VIII as it does not support or specify the unique contributions each of the existing programs offer. From supporting the clinical education and training of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, to accelerating the necessary diversity within the profession, Title VIII programs are a mainstay for healthcare supply and demand.

The Nursing Community recognizes the challenging fiscal climate and the difficult decisions that must be made by your Committee. However, we urge you to help ensure America's health is a top priority by preserving funding for all of the **Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs**. If the Nursing Community can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Suzanne Miyamoto, at 202-463-6930 ext. 247 or smiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu.