May 14, 2024

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Baldwin and Ranking Member Moore Capito:

We respectfully request that the Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act, administered by the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA)) receive $530 million in Fiscal Year 2025 through the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill. It is imperative to remember that an investment in our nursing workforce today is a commitment to America’s health care now and into the future.

Now, more than ever, it is essential that communities across the nation have access to safe, high-quality nursing care. For over five decades, the Title VIII programs have helped to educate our nation’s nursing workforce. The programs bolster nursing education at all levels, from entry-level preparation through graduate study, and support academic institutions and the nurse faculty who prepare today’s nursing students to be tomorrow’s expert clinicians.

Title VIII Nursing Workforce and Development Programs connect patients with nursing care across a variety of settings, including community health centers, hospitals, and schools of nursing. According to HRSA’s FY 2025 Budget Justification, in Academic Year 2022-2023, the Title VIII Advanced Nurse Education Programs supported more than 8,000 advanced practice nurses. 72 percent of those nurses worked in underserved areas after graduation, including 751 who were hired by a grantee or partner organization. Additionally, 60 percent of new advanced practice registered nurses worked in medically underserved communities and/or rural areas one year after graduation.

Title VIII programs also aim to promote a diverse nursing workforce to reflect an increasingly diverse patient population. In Academic Year 2022-2023, the Nursing Workforce Diversity program supported more than 2,000 students to promote the recruitment of individuals from racial and ethnic minorities underrepresented in registered nursing.

We sincerely appreciate your consideration of our request and understand the difficult decisions your Subcommittee will face in this fiscal climate. However, support for Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs is a direct investment in the nursing workforce, our nation’s well-being, and the sustainability of our health care system.

Sincerely,
Jon Ossoff  
United States Senator

Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator

Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator

Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator

Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator

Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator

Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator

Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator

Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator
Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator

Jon Tester
United States Senator

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator