



**Testimony of the Nursing Community Regarding  
Fiscal Year 2013 Appropriations for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development  
Programs, the National Institute of Nursing Research, and Nurse-Managed Health Clinics**

**U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education, and Related Agencies**

**Department of Health and Human Services**

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The Nursing Community is a forum comprised of 59 national professional nursing membership associations that builds consensus and advocates on a wide spectrum of healthcare and nursing issues surrounding practice, education, and research. These 59 organizations are committed to promoting America's health through the advancement of the nursing profession. Collectively, the Nursing Community represents nearly one million Registered Nurses (RNs), Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs-including certified nurse-midwives, nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, and certified registered nurse anesthetists), nurse executives, nursing students, nursing faculty, and nurse researchers. Together, our organizations work collaboratively to support a robust investment in the Nursing Workforce Development programs (authorized under Title VIII of the *Public Health Service Act* [42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.]), support research initiatives at the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR), and secure authorized funding for Nurse-Managed Health Clinics (Title III of the *Public Health Service Act*) so that our nation's population receives the highest-quality nursing services possible.

**Demand for Nurses Continues to Grow**

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' *Employment Projections for 2010-2020*, the expected number of practicing nurses will grow from 2.74 million in 2010 to 3.45 million in 2020, an increase of 712,000 or 26%. The projections further explain the need for 495,500 replacements in the nursing workforce, bringing the total number of job openings for nurses due to growth and replacements to 1.2 million by 2020.

Two primary factors contribute to this overwhelming projection. First, America's nursing workforce is aging. According to the *2008 National Sample Survey of Registered Nurses*, over one million of the nation's 2.6 million practicing RNs are over the age of 50. Within this population, more than 275,000 nurses are over the age of 60. As the economy continues to rebound, many of these nurses will seek retirement, leaving behind a significant deficit in the number of experienced nurses in the workforce. Secondly, America's Baby Boomer population is aging. It is estimated that over 80 million Baby Boomers reached age 65 last year. This population will require a vast influx of nursing services, particularly in areas of primary care and chronic illness management. A significant

investment must be made in the education of new nurses to provide the nation with the nursing services it demands.

## **Addressing the Demand: Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs**

For nearly 50 years, the Nursing Workforce Development programs, authorized under Title VIII of the *Public Health Service Act*, have helped build the supply and distribution of qualified nurses to meet our nation's healthcare needs. The Title VIII programs bolster nursing education at all levels, from entry-level preparation through graduate study, and provide support for institutions that educate nurses for practice in rural and medically underserved communities. Today, the Title VIII programs are essential to ensure the demand for nursing care is met. Between FY 2005 and 2010 alone, the Title VIII programs supported over 400,000 nurses and nursing students as well as numerous academic nursing institutions, and healthcare facilities.

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing's (AACN) *Title VIII Student Recipient Survey* gathers information about Title VIII dollars and its impact on nursing students. The 2011-2012 survey, which included responses from over 1,600 students, stated that the Title VIII programs played a critical role in funding their nursing education. The survey showed that 68% of the students receiving Title VIII funding are attending school full-time. By supporting full-time students, the Title VIII programs are helping to ensure that new nurses enter the workforce without delay. The programs also address the current demand for primary care providers. Over one-half of respondents reported that their career goal is to become a nurse practitioner. Approximately 80% of nurse practitioners provide primary care services throughout the United States. Additionally, several respondents identified working in rural and underserved areas as future goals, with becoming a nurse faculty member, a nurse practitioner, or a nurse researcher as the top three nursing positions for their career aspirations.

The Title VIII programs also address the need for more nurse faculty. Data from AACN's 2011-2012 enrollment and graduations survey show that nursing schools were forced to turn away 75,587 qualified applications from entry-level baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs in 2011, citing faculty vacancy as a primary reason. The Title VIII Nurse Faculty Loan Program aids in increasing nursing school enrollment capacity by supporting students pursuing graduate education provided they serve as faculty for four years after graduation.

***The Nursing Community respectfully requests \$251 million for the Nursing Workforce Development programs authorized under Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act in FY 2013.***

## **National Institute of Nursing Research: Foundation for Evidence-Based Care**

As one of the 27 Institutes and Centers at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the NINR funds research that lays the groundwork for evidence-based nursing practice. Nurse-scientists funded by NINR examine ways to improve care models to deliver safe, high-quality, and cost-effective health services to the nation. Our country must look toward the prevention aspect of health care as the vehicle for saving our system from further financial burden, and the work of NINR embraces this endeavor through research related to care management of patients during illness and recovery,

reduction of risks for disease and disability, promotion of healthy lifestyles, enhancement of quality of life for those with chronic illness, and care for individuals at the end of life. Moreover, NINR helps to provide needed faculty to support the education of future generations of nurses. Training programs at NINR develop future nurse-researchers, many of whom also serve as faculty in our nation's nursing school.

***The Nursing Community respectfully requests \$150 million for the NINR in FY 2013. This level of funding is on par with the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research's \$32 billion request for the total NIH budget in FY 2013.***

### **Nurse-Managed Health Clinics: Expanding Access to Care**

NMHCs are healthcare delivery sites managed by APRNs and are staffed by an interdisciplinary team that may include physicians, social workers, public health nurses, and therapists. These clinics are often associated with a school, college, university, department of nursing, federally qualified health center, or independent nonprofit healthcare agency. NMHCs serve as critical access points to keep patients out of the emergency room, saving the healthcare system millions of dollars annually.

NMHCs provide care to patients in medically underserved regions of the country, including rural communities, Native American reservations, senior citizen centers, elementary schools, and urban housing developments. The populations within these communities are the most vulnerable to chronic illnesses that create heavy financial burden on patients and the healthcare system. NMHCs aim to reduce the prevalence of disease and create healthier communities by providing primary care services and educating patients on health promotion practices. Furthermore, NMHCs serve as clinical education training sites for nursing students and other health professionals, a crucial aspect of NMHCs given that a lack of training sites is commonly identified as a barrier to nursing school enrollment.

***The Nursing Community respectfully requests \$20 million for the Nurse-Managed Health Clinics authorized under Title III of the Public Health Service Act in FY 2013.***

Without a workforce of well-educated nurses providing evidence-based care to those who need it most, including our growing aging population, the healthcare system is not sustainable. The Nursing Community's request of \$251 million for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs, \$150 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research, and \$20 million for Nurse-Managed Health Clinics in FY 2013 will help ensure access to quality care provided by America's nursing workforce.

### **Members of the Nursing Community Submitting this Testimony**

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses  
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners  
American Academy of Nursing  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
American Association of Nurse Assessment Coordination  
American College of Nurse Practitioners  
American College of Nurse-Midwives

American Nephrology Nurses' Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Organization of Nurse Executives  
American Psychiatric Nurses Association  
American Society for Pain Management Nursing  
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses  
Asian American and Pacific Islander Nurses Association  
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators  
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care  
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses  
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses  
Association of State and Territorial Directors of Nursing  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service  
Dermatology Nurses' Association  
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association  
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association  
Infusion Nurses Society  
International Association of Forensic Nurses  
International Nurses Society on Addictions  
International Society of Nurses in Genetics  
International Society of Psychiatric Nursing  
National American Arab Nurses Association  
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists  
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Black Nurses Association  
National Gerontological Nursing Association  
National Nursing Centers Consortium  
National Organization for Associate Degree Nurses  
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties  
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Pediatric Endocrinology Nursing Society  
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association  
Public Health Nursing Section, American Public Health Association  
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates  
Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society