



March 9, 2011

Dear Senator:

The 45 undersigned participants of the Nursing Community, a forum of national professional nursing associations that build consensus and advocate on a wide spectrum of healthcare and nursing issues, write to express support for the Senate Appropriations Committee's Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 Continuing Resolution (CR) that sustains key nursing programs. By voting "yes" on the Senate Appropriations Committee's CR, you will help support the programs critical to meeting the health demands of our nation by ensuring a robust nursing workforce.

Nurses are the largest group of health professionals with a workforce that is approximately 3.1 million strong. From preventive to palliative care, acute and intensive care, chronic care management and public health, nursing expertise helps ensure Americans and their families have access to lifesaving and life-sustaining care. Additionally, the work of leading nurse researchers has contributed to interventions that improve patient outcomes and keep healthcare expenditures down. H.R. 1 would dramatically cut the Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act) and the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) and jeopardize the growth of the nursing workforce and nursing science. Therefore, we urge you to vote "no" on H.R. 1.

In contrast, the Senate Appropriations Committee's proposal would sustain stable funding for NINR and provide an increase in funding for Title VIII, thereby supporting the work of the nation's most trusted professionals. Nurses will be needed to meet demand for care in the future and allowing the cuts in H.R. 1 to pass would decimate funding for nursing programs that build the Registered Nurse and Advanced Practice Registered Nurse workforce and ultimately limit access to care in the communities that need their services most. Moreover, given the demand for nurses, both Title VIII and NINR support the education of future nurse faculty. The current shortage of nurse faculty is a major factor that contributed to over 67,000 qualified applications being turned away from nursing schools last year.

The Nursing Community strongly urges you to support the Senate Appropriations Committee's FY 2011 CR. Nurses are vital providers that ensure quality care to all populations, including the most vulnerable. We appreciate your consideration of our request as you finalize the FY 2011 appropriations process.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
American Academy of Nursing

American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists
American Association of Nurse Assessment Coordinators
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 Psychiatric Nurses
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 Coalition of Ethnic Minority Nurse Associations
National Nursing Centers Consortium
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs
Oncology 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