



November 3, 2011

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The 50 undersigned members of the Nursing Community, a forum of national professional nursing associations that builds consensus and advocates on a wide spectrum of healthcare and nursing issues, write to request your continued support of the nursing profession in FY 2013. On behalf of our organizations, we thank you for your commitment to nursing education and practice over the previous fiscal years. With that said, we are acutely aware of the difficult spending decisions you will have to make as a result of the *Budget Control Act of 2011* [Pub. L. 112-25] and would like to reiterate the importance of funding nursing education, research, and practice.

As you are aware, the demand for nursing services is expected to intensify as the Baby Boomer population ages, a large sector of the nursing workforce retires, and more Americans seek health care due to the *Affordable Care Act*. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects a demand on our delivery system that will necessitate the creation of 581,000 new positions by 2018, a 22% increase in the nursing workforce. Additionally, in June 2011, *Wanted Analytics* reported that employers and staffing agencies posted more than 121,000 new job ads for RNs in May, up 46% from May 2010. Moreover, according to the *September 2011 Employment Situation* released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Health care employment continued to expand in September, with an increase of 44,000. Within the industry, job gains occurred in ambulatory health care services (+26,000) and in hospitals (+13,000)." As the largest segment of the healthcare workforce, RNs were recruited to fill many of these new positions.

The nation must prepare for the current and looming demand for nursing professionals. Your continued investment in the Nursing Workforce Development programs authorized under Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.) will help ensure access to high quality, cost-effective care. Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) and Registered Nurses (RNs) rely upon support through Title VIII to complete their degrees and offset their considerable educational expenses. Results from the American Association of Colleges of Nursing's *2010-2011 Title VIII Student Recipient Survey* included responses from 1,459 students who noted that these programs played a critical role in funding their nursing education. The survey showed that 80% of the students receiving this funding are attending school full-time. By supporting full-time students, the Title VIII programs are helping to ensure that students enter the workforce without delay. The programs also address the current demand for primary care providers. Nearly one third 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, the respondents identified working in rural and underserved areas as future goals.

Additionally, we ask your support for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR). As one of the 27 institutes and centers of the National Institutes of Health, the NINR's research goals promote health, prevent disease, eliminate health disparities, and improve quality of life, which over the last 25 years has made a lasting impact on the lives of millions of Americans. Research-based initiatives that improve acute care outcomes and promote preventative health awareness hold the key to reducing healthcare spending and promoting sustainable practices and are at the heart of nursing science.

Finally, Nurse-Managed Health Clinics (NMHC), funded through the Health Resources and Services Administration, are managed by APRNs and provide primary care and wellness services to underserved or vulnerable populations and are associated with a school, college, university or department of nursing, federally qualified health center, or independent nonprofit health or social services agency. The care provided in these sites directly contributes to positive health outcomes and savings in the long term. Last year, your budget proposal included \$20 million for this program, yet no funding has been allocated by Congress to date. We firmly believe that if funded, NMHCs could make a valuable contribution to the health of our nation in areas where care is not available.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests as you make difficult decisions in this time of financial uncertainty.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
American Academy of Nursing
American Assembly for Men in Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists
American Association of Nurse Assessment Coordination
American College of Nurse Practitioners
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Holistic Nurses Association
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 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 Nursing
National American Arab Nurses Association
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 Black Nurses Association
National Coalition of Ethnic Minority Nurse Associations
National Gerontological Nursing Association
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