



March 27, 2025

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Moore Capito, Chair Aderholt, Ranking Member Baldwin, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

On behalf of the 61 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC), we respectfully request your support of **at least \$530 million for Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs** (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.]), **at least \$210 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR), and for preserving NINR as an independent Institute within NIH in Fiscal Year (FY) 2026.** As Congress continues to consider policies to ensure that patients throughout the nation have access to health care, it is imperative that workforce funding reflects the heightened needs of our communities. We appreciate Congress' commitment to nursing education, workforce, and research and urge you to make much needed increases to the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs and NINR in FY 2026.

The Nursing Community Coalition is a cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the nursing profession. Together, the NCC represents Registered Nurses (RNs), Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs),¹ nurse leaders, boards of nursing, students, faculty, and researchers. As the largest segment of the health care profession,² nursing is

¹ APRNs include certified nurse-midwives (CNMs), certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs), clinical nurse specialists (CNSs) and nurse practitioners (NPs).

² Smith, Sean and Blank, Andrew. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (June 2023) Healthcare Occupations: Characteristics of the Employed. Slide Two: Employment in the 25 largest healthcare occupations, 2022. Retrieved from: <https://www.bls.gov/spotlight/2023/healthcare-occupations-in-2022/>

involved at every point of care. We recognize that supporting health care in all communities, including in our rural and underserved areas, requires continued investments in nursing. This is especially true as the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) projects the demand for RNs will increase 6% by 2033,³ and the demand for most APRNs is expected to grow by 40%.⁴ With an aging population and increased need for nurses throughout the country, bold investments in our Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs and NINR are critical, not only as we address the current needs of the profession, but as we prepare for the health care needs of tomorrow.

As the largest dedicated federal funding for nurses, the Title VIII Programs are smart investments that bolster and sustain the nation's nursing pipeline by addressing all aspects of nursing workforce demand. From scholarship and loan repayments, to supporting APRNs and future faculty, Title VIII programs offer a strategic and cost-effective approach to supporting our nursing workforce. Funding for Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs must meet levels reflecting the nursing population it serves in order to achieve maximum efficiency. These programs directly connect patients with high-quality nursing care in community health centers, hospitals, long-term care facilities, local and state health departments, schools, workplaces, and patients' homes. With more than four and a half million nurses throughout the country,⁵ and increased demand for more nurses to serve our communities, Title VIII programs are a strategic investment that needs elevated support in FY 2026.

We have also seen the importance of science in the discussion of cures and preparedness. As the only Institute or Center at NIH that directly supports research by our nurse scientists, NINR promotes patient-centered care across the life continuum. NINR's scientists and researchers have made groundbreaking, lifesaving discoveries in the areas of prevention and care for low birthweight in infants, symptom management for those with Alzheimer's, and reducing pressure sores through the development of the Braden Scale. The translational research by our nation's nurses and scientists is essential to developing new evidence-based practices to care for all patients. Through increased investments in NINR, and retaining NINR as an independent Institute, nurse researchers and scientists will be able to continue their invaluable work at the forefront of disease prevention, patient care, and recovery.

A FY 2026 budget that reduces funding for the Title VIII Programs and NINR would have devastating impacts on patient care, which is why bold investments in these programs are so vital. As we support America's health, we urge you to **invest in our nation's nurses by providing at least \$530 million for Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs and at least \$210 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR), as well as preserving NINR as an independent Institute within NIH in FY 2026.** We appreciate your work to safeguard the public's well-being by putting forward strategic investments for these critical programs. If our organizations can be of any assistance, or if you have any questions, please contact the Nursing

³ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2024). Occupational Outlook Handbook- Registered Nurses. Retrieved from: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/registered-nurses.htm>

⁴ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2024). Occupational Outlook Handbook- Nurse Anesthetists, Nurse Midwives, and Nurse Practitioners. Retrieved from: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/nurse-anesthetists-nurse-midwives-and-nurse-practitioners.htm>

⁵ National Council of State Boards of Nursing. (2024). Active RN Licenses: A profile of nursing licensure in the U.S. Retrieved from: <https://www.ncsbn.org/nursing-regulation/national-nursing-database/licensure-statistics/active-rn-licenses.page>

Community Coalition's Executive Director, Rachel Minahan at rstevenson@thenursingcommunity.org.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
Academy of Neonatal Nursing
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners
American Academy of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
American Association of Heart Failure Nurses
American Association of Neuroscience Nurses
American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American Association of Occupational Health Nurses
American Association of Post-Acute Care Nursing
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Nephrology Nurses Association
American Nurses Association
American Nursing Informatics Association
American Organization for Nursing Leadership
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association, Inc.
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Public Health Association, Public Health Nursing Section
American Society for Pain Management Nursing
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators
Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses
Association of Public Health Nurses
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
Association of Veterans Affairs Nurse Anesthetists
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service
Dermatology Nurses' Association
Emergency Nurses Association
Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association
Infusion Nurses Society
International Association of Forensic Nurses
International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses
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 Association of School Nurses
National Black Nurses Association
National Council of State Boards of Nursing
National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers
National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence
National League for Nursing
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs
Oncology Nursing Society
Organization for Associate Degree Nursing
Society of Pediatric Nurses
Pediatric Endocrinology Nursing Society
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates
Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nurses Society

cc:

Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Susan Collins
Senate Appropriations Committee Vice Chair Patty Murray
House Appropriations Committee Chairman Tom Cole
House Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro
Senate Majority Leader John Thune
Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer
Speaker of the House Mike Johnson
House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries
All Members of the Senate Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
All Members of the House Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies