



May 31, 2013

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, HHS and Education
131 Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, HHS and Education
131 Senate House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Moran:

On behalf the 44 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community, we respectfully request \$251 million for the Nursing Workforce Development programs authorized under Title VIII of the *Public Health Service Act* (42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.); \$150 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR); as well as authorized funding for the Nurse-Managed Health Clinics (NMHCs, Title III of the *Public Health Service Act*) in the amount of \$20 million as you work to prepare your FY 2014 appropriations bill.

As you probably are aware, the demand for nursing services is steadily exceeding the supply. According to the 2012 Bureau of Labor Statistics' *Employment Projections 2010-2020*, the number of nurses needed to fill job openings and to replace retiring nurses will reach 1.2 million by 2020.¹ Additionally, an anticipated 32 million newly insured patients covered under reformed insurance markets will exacerbate the need for nursing services, particularly in primary care.

For nearly five decades, the Title VIII programs have helped to answer the call for a more robust Registered Nurse (RN) and Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) workforce. Administered through the Health Resources and Services Administration, these programs support the recruitment, education, and retention of nurses in our healthcare system and reflect of the health needs of our nation's most vulnerable populations. Data from the American Association of Colleges of Nursing's 2012-2013 *Title VIII Student Recipient Survey* reveals that among the survey's respondents, working in a community hospital or practicing in an underserved or rural area ranked among top career choices.²

NINR's research goals of promoting health, preventing disease, eliminating health disparities, and improving quality of life over the last 25 years has made a lasting impact on the lives of millions of Americans. Nurse scientists funded by NINR are responsible for innovative research initiatives that reduce rates of illness and promote prevention practices that save the healthcare system billions of dollars annually. Moreover, NINR allocates a generous portion of its budget to develop the next generation of nurse researchers who advance evidence-based practice.

Lastly, we request that NMHCs receive mandatory funding in FY 2014. NMHCs are run by an APRN and serve as a critical resource of primary care services for underserved populations. Often associated with a

¹ Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2012). *Employment Projections 2010-2020*. Accessed March 28, 2013 from <http://bls.gov/news.release/ecopro.nr0.htm>.

² American Association of Colleges of Nursing. (2013). *2012-2013 Title VIII Student Recipient Survey*. Accessed March 28, 2013.

school, college, university, department of nursing, or other federally qualified health center, these establishments serve as clinical training sites for nursing students and other health professionals.

We understand and appreciate the difficult decisions Congress must make to reduce the federal deficit. We urge you to remain committed to supporting the nursing workforce so that all patients may receive high-quality, cost-effective nursing care. We thank you in advance for your consideration of our FY 2014 requests of \$251 million for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs, \$150 million for NINR, and \$20 million for Nurse-Managed Health Clinics. Please consider our organizations available as resources to you and your colleagues on national nursing issues. If you have any questions, please contact Suzanne Miyamoto at smiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
American Academy of Ambulatory Care
Nursing
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 Practitioners
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Nephrology Nurses' Association
American Nurses Association
American Organization of Nurse Executives
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association
Dermatology Nurses' Association
Emergency 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 Neonatal Nurse
Practitioners

American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Society for Pain Management Nursing
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
Association of Community Health Nursing
Educators
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses
Association of Public Health Nurses
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and
Neonatal Nurses
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S.
Public Health Service

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 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

Cc:

Senator Patty Murray
Senator Mary Landrieu
Senator Dick Durbin
Senator Jack Reed
Senator Mark Pryor
Senator Barbara Mikulski
Senator Jon Tester
Senator Jeanne Shaheen

Senator Jeff Merkley
Senator Thad Cochran
Senator Richard Shelby
Senator Lamar Alexander
Senator Lindsey Graham
Senator Mark Kirk
Senator Mike Johanns
Senator John Boozman