



AMERICANS FOR NURSING SHORTAGE RELIEF

November 3, 2009

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye and Ranking Member Cochran:

The undersigned members of the ANSR (Americans for Nursing Shortage Relief) Alliance urge you to support the House proposed budget level of **\$263.4 million** in FY 2010 for the *Title VIII – Nursing Workforce Development Programs* of the *Public Health Service Act*.

The Title VIII programs, administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration, provide the main federal funding for nursing education, practice, and retention, aimed at maintaining a supply of nurses essential to achieving the nation's goal of ensuring access to affordable, high-quality health care for all. Today's shortage of appropriately prepared nurses – although eased somewhat in various locales during the recent recession – still outpaces the level of federal investments in the Title VIII Nursing Workforce programs necessary to meet the nation's health care demands. This persistent workforce imbalance exacerbates nurse faculty scarcities in the education infrastructure, preventing too few eligible people from entering the profession at the rate the nation requires for our growing health care needs. Absent faculty to educate our future nurses, the shortage cannot be resolved and health disparities, inflated costs, and poor quality of health care outcomes likely will deepen.

Having a sufficient nurse workforce to meet the demands of a highly diverse and aging population is an essential component to reforming our health care system as well as improving the health status of the nation and reducing health care costs. These systemic workforce problems also challenge other aspects of our future as the link between health care and our nation's economic security and global competitiveness is undeniable. Nurses everywhere are well aware of the fiscal dilemma facing the nation today, and we thank the Senate for its astute efforts to provide for growing health care requirements by addressing nurse and nurse faculty workforce deficits.

The ANSR Alliance stands ready to work with you to advance evidence-based, cost-effective programs and policies that hold the most promise to properly address and mitigate the complex factors contributing to the current and expected nurse and nurse faculty shortages.

Sincerely yours,

- Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
- American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
- American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
- American Academy of Nursing
- American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
- American Association of Nurse Anesthetists
- American Association of Nurse Assessment Coordinators
- American Association of Nurse Executives

American Association of Occupational Health Nurses
 American College of Nurse Practitioners
 American Organization of Nurse Executives
 American Psychiatric Nurses Association
 American Society for Pain Management Nursing
 American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
 American Society of Plastic Surgical Nurses
 Association for Radiologic & Imaging Nursing
 Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses
 Association of periOperative Registered Nurses
 Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
 Association of State and Territorial Directors of Nursing
 Association of Women's Health, Obstetric & Neonatal Nurses
 Citizen Advocacy Center
 Developmental Disabilities Nurses Association
 Emergency Nurses Association
 Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
 Infusion Nurses Society
 International Society of Nurses in Genetics, Inc.
 Legislative Coalition of Virginia Nurses
 National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
 National Association of Hispanic Nurses
 National Association of Neonatal Nurses
 National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners
 National Association of Nurse Massage Therapists
 National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
 National Association of Orthopaedic Nurses
 National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
 National Association of Registered Nurse First Assistants
 National Black Nurses Association
 National Council of State Boards of Nursing
 National Council of Women's Organizations
 National Gerontological Nursing Association
 National League for Nursing
 National Nursing Centers Consortium
 National Nursing Staff Development Organization
 National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing
 National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
 National Student Nurses' Association, Inc.
 Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs
 Oncology Nursing Society
 Pediatric Endocrinology Nursing Society
 RN First Assistants Policy & Advocacy Coalition
 Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates, Inc.
 Society of Pediatric Nurses
 Society of Trauma Nurses
 Women's Research & Education Institute
 Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society