



March 18, 2010

Representative David Obey
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and
Education
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative Todd Tiahrt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and
Education
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Tiahrt:

On behalf of the Nursing Community, a forum of professional nursing organizations representing over 850,000 Registered Nurses (RNs), Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), nurse faculty, nursing students, and nurse researchers, the 45 undersigned organizations are writing to respectfully request \$267.3 million (a 10% increase) for the Nursing Workforce Development programs authorized under Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.) in fiscal year (FY) 2011.

Last year, your Subcommittee provided a significant funding boost for Title VIII that helped support the Loan Repayment and Scholarship and Nurse Faculty Loan programs. These increases will bolster the pipeline of nurses and nurse faculty, which is so critical to reversing the nursing shortage. We feel it is extremely important to maintain last year's funding level for these critical programs in FY 2011 and direct the 10% requested increase for the four Title VIII program that have not kept pace with inflation since FY 2005. The Advanced Education Nursing, Nursing Workforce Diversity, Nurse Education, Practice, and Retention, and Comprehensive Geriatric Education programs expand nursing school capacity and increase patient access to care. These programs would greatly benefit from the 10% increase awarded in proportion to their FY 2010 funding level.

With the nation focused on reforming our health system that will increase access to quality care and decrease cost, it is critical that a substantial investment be made in our healthcare workforce, particularly an investment in nurses. RNs and APRNs are vital to ensuring direct availability to high quality, cost-effective health care in a reformed system. Yet, the continuing shortage of nurses will significantly hinder the nation's healthcare reform goals.

Nursing students rely upon support through Title VIII to complete their degree and offset their considerable educational expenses. Continued and increased support for the Title VIII programs can help address the demand for nursing services.

Please know that the undersigned organizations understand and appreciate that the Congress has limited resources. However, without an adequate supply of nurses to care for our nation and a growing aging population, the nation's healthcare system is not sustainable. We thank you in advance for your consideration of our request for \$267.3 million in FY 2011 for the HRSA

Nursing Workforce Development programs. Please know our organizations are available as resources for you and your colleagues on the nation's nursing shortage and related issues.

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 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
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 (COA).
Dermatology Nurses' Association
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association
Infusion Nurses Society
International Association of Forensic Nurses
National American Arab Nurses Association
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Association of Hispanic 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 Nursing Centers Consortium
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
National Student Nurses' Association, Inc.
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs
Oncology Nursing Society
Philippine Nurses Association of America, Inc.
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Public Health Nursing Section, American Public Health Association
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates
The Quad Council of Public Health Nursing Organizations
Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society

Cc:

Representative Nita M. Lowey (NY)
Representative Rosa L. DeLauro (CT)
Representative Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. (IL)
Representative Patrick J. Kennedy (RI)
Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA)
Representative Barbara Lee (CA)
Representative Michael Honda (CA)
Representative Betty McCollum (MN)
Representative Tim Ryan (OH)
Representative James P. Moran (VA)
Representative Dennis R. Rehberg (MT)
Representative Rodney Alexander (LA)
Representative Jo Bonner (AL)
Representative Tom Cole (OK)
Representative Jerry Lewis (CA), Ex Officio