



November 24, 2009

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the 46 undersigned organizations representing over 842,000 Registered Nurses (RNs), Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), nurse executives, nursing faculty, and students, we would like to offer our sincere appreciation for the significant investment you have made to strengthening the nursing workforce. By proposing a substantial increase to the Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act) in your fiscal year (FY) 2010 budget and signing the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*, which allocated much needed funds to these programs, your administration has taken a powerful position on the central role nurses play in our healthcare system.

We would also like to commend your commitment to ensuring that a robust nursing workforce is available to increase access to high quality care under a newly reformed healthcare system. As you know, without an adequate number of healthcare providers, patients will be unable to access essential, cost-effective care. Considering healthcare reform will include expansions to primary, transitional, and preventive care, investments must be made in the healthcare workforce. RNs and APRNs are educated to provide these vital healthcare services, but many more will be needed to meet the demands of a newly reformed system. Additionally, to ensure growth in the nursing workforce is possible, more federal funding must be dedicated to educating future nurse faculty.

These objectives cannot be met without a sustained investment in nursing through the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs. **Therefore, we ask that you continue to make nursing a priority in your FY 2011 budget by increasing funding for these programs.** The Title VIII programs are the largest source of dedicated federal dollars for nursing education, recruitment, retention, and practice. For 45 years, these programs have supported hundreds of thousands of individuals to become RNs, APRNs, and nurse faculty, or strengthen their nursing skills. Yet, stagnant funding prior to your administration, combined with rising educational costs and inflation, has significantly decreased the programs' purchasing power.

The continuing shortage of RNs and APRNs and the pending demand for their care poses real challenges to our healthcare system and all healthcare reform plans. This is further complicated by lack of nurse faculty. Fortunately, the Title VIII programs are structured to address the needs of the nursing workforce. We respectfully request your continued investment in nurses, the care they provide, and the vital asset they are to the healthcare team. While other industries report job losses, positions in the healthcare sector continue to grow. RNs and APRNs will be recruited to fill many of these new healthcare positions, especially when the reformed system demands more nursing services. As a profession, nurses are committed to the patient first and are the one provider who will spend the most time with patients and their families. Nurses need your continued support. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

AANAC

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 Midwives
American College of Nurse Practitioners
American Nephrology Nurses' Association
American Nurses Association
American Organization of Nurse Executives
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
Asian American and Pacific Islander Nurses Association
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
Dermatology Nurses' Association
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 American Arab Nurses Association
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
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 Coalition of Ethnic Minority Nurse Associations
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