



January 9, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
House Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, and Leader Jeffries:

On behalf of all 63 member organizations representing the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC), we recognize how important passing a federal budget is to support our current and future nurses who are so vital to the health of our nation. A long-term CR that cuts programs, including slashing much needed funding for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs and the National Institute of Nursing Research is not the answer. We need Congress to pass the fiscal year (FY) 2024 appropriations before the February deadline and include **at least \$302.472 million for Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs** (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.]) and **at least \$197.693 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)**, as outlined in the Senate Appropriations Committee passed bill.

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 involved at every point of care. As a coalition and as a country, we have witnessed the immense impact public health emergencies have on our nursing students and workforce. In fact, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) projected that by 2032 demand for RNs would increase 6%, illustrating an employment change of 177,400 nurses.³ Further, the demand for most APRNs is expected to grow by 38%.⁴

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

² United States Census Bureau. (2021) Who are our Health Care Workers? Retrieved from: <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2021/04/who-are-our-health-care-workers.html>

³ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2023). Occupational Outlook Handbook- Registered Nurses. Retrieved from: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/registered-nurses.htm>

⁴ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2023). 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>

The need for nurses and APRNs is not only outlined by BLS, but can be seen in communities across the nation, including rural and underserved areas. In fact, the American Nurses Foundation’s third COVID-19 impact study found that 19% of nurses said they intend to leave their position in the next six months, and 27% are considering leaving.⁵ Most recently, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) unveiled their research, “Examining the Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Burnout & Stress Among U.S. Nurses,” which found that approximately 100,000 RNs left the workforce during the pandemic and “another 610,388 RNs reported an ‘intent to leave’ by 2027 due to stress, burnout, and retirement.”⁶ “Altogether, about one-fifth of RNs nationally are projected to leave the health care workforce.”⁷

This reality underscores the heightened need for bold investments in our Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs, 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 funding for our current and future nurses, the Title VIII programs have helped bolster and sustain the nation’s diverse nursing pipeline by addressing all aspects of nursing workforce demand. With an aging workforce, aging population, and need to support our frontline providers, funding for Title VIII must meet levels reflecting the nursing population it serves. Therefore, with more than four and a half million nurses throughout the country,⁸ we strongly urge historic support for these programs in FY 2024.

We have also seen the importance of science in the discussion of cures and preparedness. As one of the 27 Institutes and Centers at the National Institutes of Health, NINR’s research is aimed at reducing the impact of social determinants of health and creating a more equitable health care system by promoting patient-centered care across the life continuum. 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, they will be able to continue their vital work at the forefront of disease prevention, patient care, and recovery.

Now is not the time to go backwards, especially in funding for nursing education, workforce, and research! As you work to pass a FY 2024 budget, and avoid a long-term CR, we urge you to **invest in our nation’s nurses by providing at least 302.472 million for Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs and at least \$197.693 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)**. We appreciate your work to safeguard the public’s well-being by putting forward bold investments for these critical programs. If our organizations can be of any assistance, or if you have any questions, please contact the Nursing Community Coalition’s Executive Director, Rachel Stevenson, at rstevenson@thenursingcommunity.org.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
Academy of Neonatal Nursing
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners
American Academy of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Nursing

⁵ American Nurses Foundation. (2023). Three-Year Annual Assessment Survey: Nurses Needed Increased Support from their Employer. Retrieved from: https://www.nursingworld.org/~48fb88/contentassets/23d4f79cea6b4f67ae24714de11783e9/anf-impact-assessment-third-year_v5.pdf

⁶ National Council of State Boards of Nursing (2023) NCSBN Research Projects Significant Nursing Workforce Shortages and Crisis. Retrieved from: <https://www.ncsbn.org/news/ncsbn-research-projects-significant-nursing-workforce-shortages-and-crisis>

⁷ Ibid

⁸ National Council of State Boards of Nursing. (2023). Active RN Licenses: A profile of nursing licensure in the U.S. Retrieved from: <https://www.ncsbn.org/6161.htm>

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 for Radiologic and Imaging Nursing
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
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
Pediatric Endocrinology Nursing Society
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association

Society of Pediatric Nurses
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates
Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nurses Society

cc:

Chair Patty Murray, Senate Appropriations Committee

Vice Chair Susan Collins, Senate Appropriations Committee

Chair Tammy Baldwin, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

Ranking Member Shelley Moore Capito, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

Chairwoman Kay Granger, House Appropriations Committee

Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro, House Appropriations Committee

Chair Robert Aderholt, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies