

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 6, 2017

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services and Education  
H-307, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services and Education  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

We respectfully request that you invest in the nation's health by providing \$244 million for the Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act, administered by HRSA) in Fiscal Year 2018 as you work to complete the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill.

As essential members of the health professions team, Registered Nurses (RNs) and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) comprise the largest sector of the healthcare workforce with nearly four million providers. The RN and APRN pipeline relies on the support provided through the Title VIII programs to advance all aspects of the nursing workforce demand, including education, practice, recruitment, and retention. Title VIII programs bolster education at all levels, from entry-level preparation through graduate study, and also support academic institutions and the nurse faculty who prepare today's nursing students to be tomorrow's expert clinicians.

It is critical that communities across the country have access to safe, high-quality, and timely care. Title VIII programs advance this endeavor by fostering training and employment opportunities to serve those most in need. For example, in Academic Year 2014-2015, the Title VIII Advanced Education Nursing Traineeship supported 3,008 students, of which 72% were trained in primary care. Additionally, 55% of Title VIII Loan Repayment Program participants working in an underserved area as a condition of loan repayment voluntarily extended their service contracts to continue providing care to these vulnerable populations.

We sincerely appreciate your consideration of our request as your Subcommittee faces a challenging fiscal climate. A strong investment in the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs in FY 2018 is a strong investment in the nursing workforce, patient well-being, and the sustainability of our nation's healthcare system.

Sincerely,

  
SUZANNE BONAMICI  
Member of Congress

  
RODNEY DAVIS  
Member of Congress

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Tulsi Gabbard  
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Bobby Scott  
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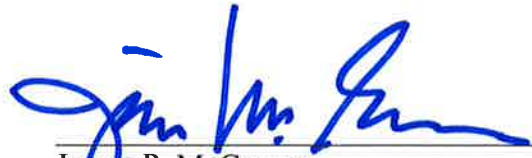
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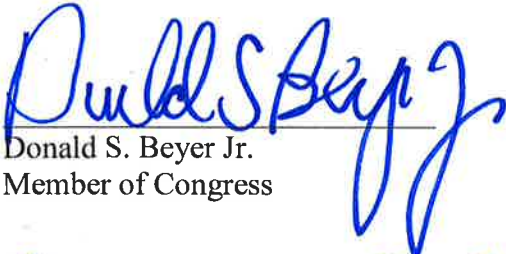
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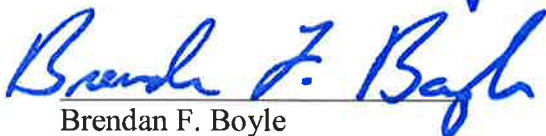
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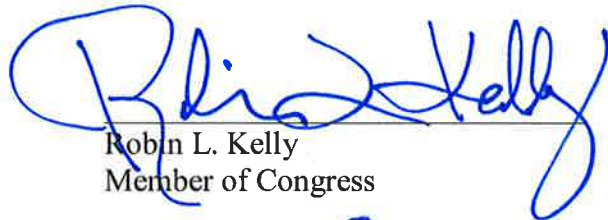
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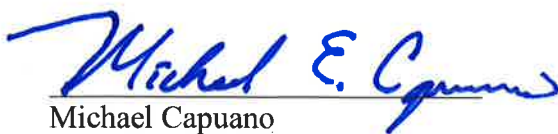
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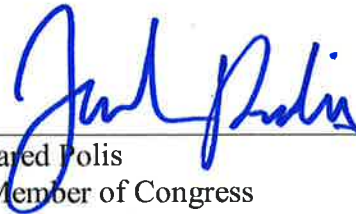
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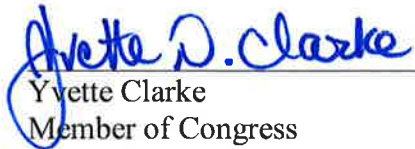
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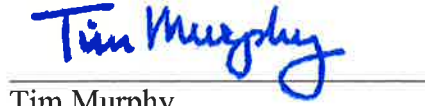
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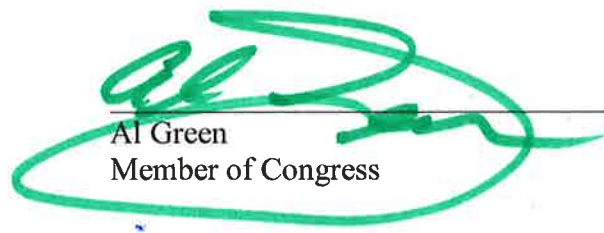
  
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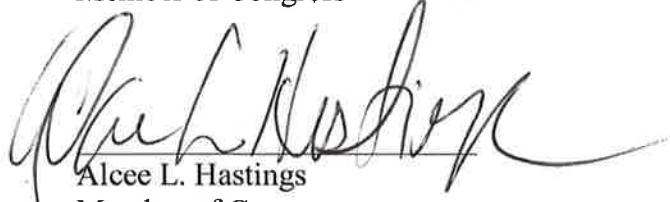
  
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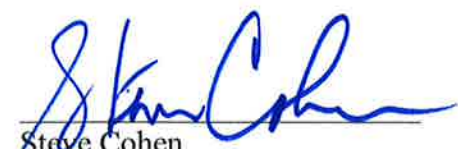
  
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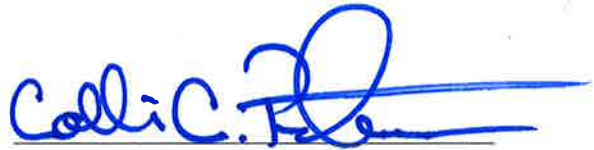
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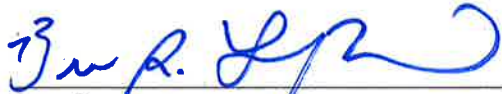
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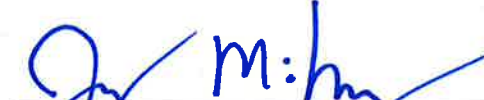
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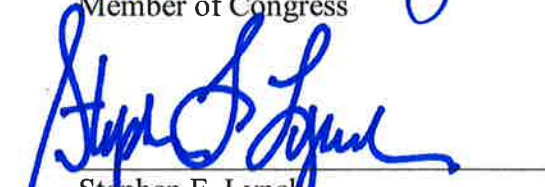
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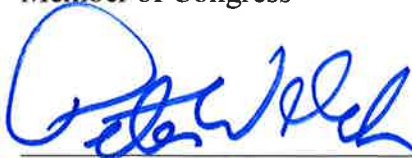
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