

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 25, 2017

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

We respectfully request that the Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act, administered by HRSA) receive \$244 million in Fiscal Year 2018 through the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill. An investment in our nursing workforce today is a commitment to America's health care now and into the future.

More than ever, it is essential that communities across the nation have access to safe, high-quality nursing care. For over five decades, the Title VIII programs have been directly tied to this endeavor. The programs bolster nursing 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.

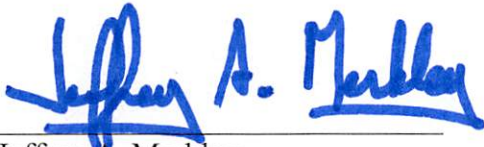
Title VIII programs strengthen the workforce and the care patients receive on multiple levels. For example, in Academic Year 2014-2015, the Title VIII Advanced Education Nursing Traineeship supported 3,008 students, of which 72% were trained in primary care. Additionally, 55% of Title VIII Loan Repayment 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. Collectively, the programs supported over 61,000 students in academic year 2015-2016 alone and assisted in bridging patients with nursing care across a variety of settings, including community health centers, hospitals, and schools of nursing, to name a few.

Title VIII programs also aim to promote a diverse nursing workforce to reflect an increasingly diverse patient population. In 2014-2015, the Nursing Workforce Diversity program supported 13,225 nursing students and aspiring students to promote the recruitment of individuals from racial and ethnic minorities underrepresented in registered nursing.

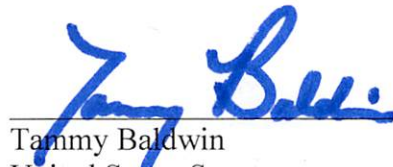
We sincerely appreciate your consideration of our request and understand the difficult decisions your Subcommittee will face in this fiscal climate. However, support for Title VIII Nursing

Workforce Development Programs is a direct investment in the nursing workforce, our nation's well-being, and the sustainability of our health care system as a whole.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senate



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senate



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senate



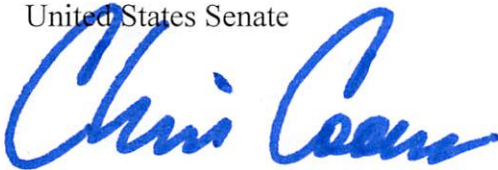
Cory A. Booker
United States Senate



Sherrod Brown
United States Senate



Robert P. Casey Jr.
United States Senate



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senate



Al Franken
United States Senate



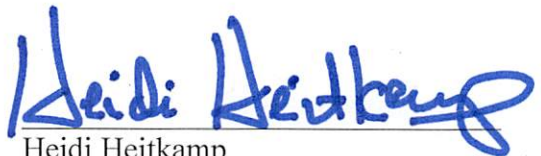
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senate



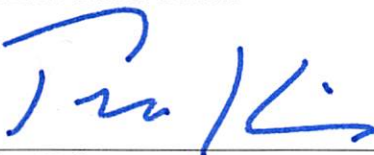
Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senate



Martin Heinrich
United States Senate



Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senate



Tim Kaine
United States Senate



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senate

J. J. Jones

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Edward J. Markey
United States Senate



Christopher Murphy
United States Senate



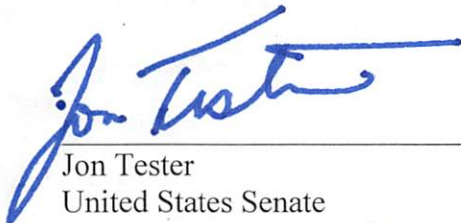
Gary C. Peters
United States Senate



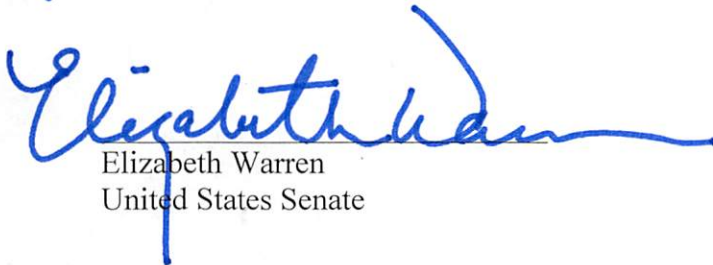
Bernard Sanders
United States Senate



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senate



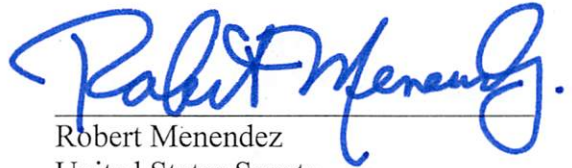
Jon Tester
United States Senate



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate



Ron Wyden
United States Senate



Robert Menendez
United States Senate



Bill Nelson
United States Senate



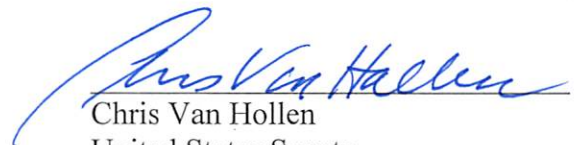
Jack Reed
United States Senate



Brian Schatz
United States Senate



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senate



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senate



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senate

Edward J. McLaughlin

J. M. [unclear]

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Robert [unclear]

Bill [unclear]

John [unclear]

Wm. [unclear]

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