



March 6, 2019

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) applauds the Subcommittee for their leadership and support of Nursing Workforce Development programs, which have a direct impact on the nursing pipeline and access to high-quality, evidence-based care. As you consider and advance the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS-ED) appropriations bill, AACN respectfully requests your continued support for the nursing workforce through:

- **\$266 million for the Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 296 et. seq]); and**
- **At least \$41.6 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), including funds provided to NIH through the 21st Century Cures Act [P.L. No: 114-255] for targeted initiatives. Within this overall funding level, AACN requests \$173 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR).¹**

As the national voice for academic nursing, AACN represents 823 schools of nursing that educate more than 500,000 students and employ 45,000 faculty. Collectively, these institutions graduate our nation's registered nurses (RN), advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), faculty, and researchers. Our members are committed to preparing a highly-educated nursing workforce and strengthening the foundation of nursing science.

Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs

For over fifty years, the Nursing Workforce Development programs have consistently and continually built the supply and distribution of highly-educated nurses by strengthening nursing education at all levels, from entry preparation through graduate study. Further, Title VIII programs support nursing faculty who prepare today's students to be tomorrow's nurses. Through grants, scholarships, and loan repayments programs, these essential federal investments positively impact the profession's ability to serve America's patients in all communities, especially those most in need; bolster diversity within the workforce; and increase the number of nurses trained to serve our aging population.

¹ This request is based on the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research's FY 2020 endorsement for the total funding level for NIH.

Federal support of Title VIII programs and the nursing pipeline is critical. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the demand in the RN workforce is expected to increase 15% by 2026, representing the demand for an additional 438,100 jobs.² Demand for certain APRNs (nurse practitioners, certified registered nurse anesthetists, and certified nurse-midwives) is expected to grow by 31%.³

Each of the programs that comprise Title VIII have a unique mission aimed at promoting nursing care in all communities, including vulnerable and underserved areas. These programs offer opportunities to help educate and train nurses needed to address patient demand. For example, in Academic Year 2016-2017, the Nurse Faculty Loan Program awarded grants to 84 schools, supporting 1,998 nursing students pursuing a degree to become nurse faculty.⁴ Among those 568 graduating trainees, 92% intend to teach nursing.⁵ As you draft the FY 2020 LHHS-ED appropriations bill, it is critically important that these Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs continue to receive individual line items. Therefore, our total request of \$266 million for Title VIII programs, includes:

- Advanced Nursing Education (Sec. 811), which includes the Advanced Education Nursing Traineeships and Nurse Anesthetist Traineeships;
- Nursing Workforce Diversity (Sec. 821);
- Nurse Education, Practice, Quality, and Retention (Sec. 831);
- NURSE Corps Loan Repayment and Scholarship Programs (Sec. 846);
- Nurse Faculty Loan Program (Sec. 846A); and
- Comprehensive Geriatric Education (Sec. 865).

National Institute of Nursing Research

As one of the 27 Institutes and Centers at NIH, NINR develops knowledge to build the scientific foundation for clinical practice to improve healthcare delivery across the entire lifespan. Nurse scientists, often working collaboratively with other health professionals, are generating and translating new findings focused on cutting edge innovations such as big data and data science, precision health, and genomics.⁶ In addition, NINR allots a generous portion of its budget towards training new nursing scientists, thus helping to sustain the longevity and contributions of nursing research.⁷

Supporting the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs and NINR is essential to sustaining a strong nursing workforce able to care for our nation's aging population and keep America healthy.

² U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2016). Occupational Outlook Handbook- Registered Nurses. Retrieved from: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/registered-nurses.htm>.

³ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2016). 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#TB_inline?height=325&width=325&inlineId=qf-outlook.

⁴ Department of Health and Human Services Fiscal Year 2019 Health Resources and Services Administration Justification of Estimates for Appropriations Committees. <https://www.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/hrsa/about/budget/budget-justification-fy2019.pdf>.

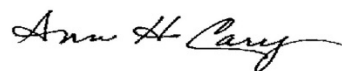
⁵ Department of Health and Human Services Fiscal Year 2019 Health Resources and Services Administration Justification of Estimates for Appropriations Committees. <https://www.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/hrsa/about/budget/budget-justification-fy2019.pdf>.

⁶ Department of Health and Human Services National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR). FY 2019 Budget. <https://www.ninr.nih.gov/sites/files/docs/NINR-Budget-FY-2019-508c.pdf>.

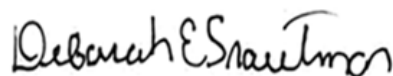
⁷ Department of Health and Human Services National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR). FY 2019 Budget. <https://www.ninr.nih.gov/sites/files/docs/NINR-Budget-FY-2019-508c.pdf>.

AACN appreciates the subcommittee's consideration of our FY 2020 requests for Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs and NINR. We look forward to working with you as we continue to strengthen the nursing workforce to address the economic, societal, and healthcare challenges that are upon us now and in the future. If AACN can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact AACN's Director of Government Affairs, Rachel Stevenson, at (202) 463-6930, ext. 271 or rstenenson@aacnnursing.org.

Sincerely,



Ann Cary, PhD, MPH, RN, FNAP, FAAN
Board Chair



Deborah Trautman, PhD, RN, FAAN
President and CEO

CC:

Senator Richard Shelby
Senator Lamar Alexander
Senator Lindsey Graham
Senator Jerry Moran
Senator Shelley Moore Capito
Senator John Kennedy
Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith
Senator Marco Rubio
Senator James Lankford
Senator Richard Durbin
Senator Jack Reed
Senator Jeanne Shaheen
Senator Jeff Merkley
Senator Brian Schatz
Senator Tammy Baldwin
Senator Chris Murphy
Senator Joe Manchin