



August 9, 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:

Now that a topline budget agreement has been reached, and as you consider and advance the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS-ED) appropriations bill, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) would like to reiterate our FY 2020 funding requests. We ask for your support as follows:

- **At least \$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).<sup>1</sup>**

As the national voice for academic nursing, AACN represents 825 schools of nursing that educate more than 500,000 students and employ more than 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.

Federal support of Title VIII programs, NINR, 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.<sup>2</sup> Demand for certain APRNs (nurse practitioners, certified registered nurse anesthetists, and certified nurse-midwives) is expected to grow by 31%.<sup>3</sup>

The Title VIII 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. Through grants, scholarships, and loan

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

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

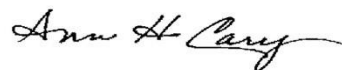
<sup>3</sup> U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2016). Occupational Outlook Handbook- Nurse Anesthetists, Nurse Midwives, and Nurse Practitioners. Retrieved from: [https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/nurse-anesthetists-nurse-midwives-and-nurse-practitioners.htm#TB\\_inline?height=325&width=325&inlineId=qf-outlook](https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/nurse-anesthetists-nurse-midwives-and-nurse-practitioners.htm#TB_inline?height=325&width=325&inlineId=qf-outlook).

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, while also bolstering diversity within the workforce and increasing the number of nurses trained to serve our aging population. For example, in Academic Year 2017-2018, the Nurse Faculty Loan Program awarded grants to 80 schools, supporting 2,172 nursing students pursuing a degree to become nurse faculty.<sup>4</sup> Among those 800 graduating trainees, 94% intend to teach nursing.<sup>5</sup>

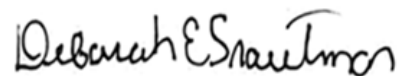
In addition, NINR, as one of the 27 Institutes and Centers at NIH, continues to develop knowledge to build the scientific foundation for clinical practice to improve healthcare delivery across the entire lifespan. Nurse scientists, often working collaboratively with other health professionals, are generating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

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. AACN appreciates your consideration of our FY 2020 requests of at least **\$266 million for Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs and \$173 million for NINR**. 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 [rstevenson@aacnnursing.org](mailto:rstevenson@aacnnursing.org).

Sincerely,



Ann H. 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

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<sup>4</sup> Department of Health and Human Services Fiscal Year 2020 Health Resources and Services Administration Justification of Estimates for Appropriations Committees. <https://www.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/hrsa/about/budget/budget-justification-fy2020.pdf>.

<sup>5</sup> Department of Health and Human Services Fiscal Year 2020 Health Resources and Services Administration Justification of Estimates for Appropriations Committees. <https://www.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/hrsa/about/budget/budget-justification-fy2020.pdf>.

<sup>6</sup> 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-2020-508c.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> 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-2020-508c.pdf>

Senator Richard Durbin  
Senator Jack Reed  
Senator Jeanne Shaheen  
Senator Jeff Merkley  
Senator Brian Schatz  
Senator Tammy Baldwin  
Senator Chris Murphy  
Senator Joe Manchin