



October 19, 2021

The Honorable Lauren Underwood
United States House of Representatives
1130 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Underwood:

As Congress continues to negotiate the scope of the reconciliation package, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) applauds your leadership and success in ensuring that major components of the Future Advancement of Academic Nursing (FAAN) Act (H.R. 851/S.246) and the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act (H.R. 959/S.346) were included in the House Energy and Commerce Committee's section of the Build Back Better Act. On behalf of AACN, we would like to thank you for your ongoing efforts to ensure these vital provisions move forward and that the nursing voice continues to echo throughout ongoing workforce, public health, and emergency preparedness conversations.

As the national voice for academic nursing, AACN represents nearly 840 schools of nursing that educate more than 580,000 baccalaureate, graduate, and post-graduate students and employ over 52,000 faculty members. These institutions are responsible for educating our nation's registered nurses, advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), nurse faculty, and nurse researchers. Thanks to your efforts, nursing students are able to complete their studies and become integral members of our nation's healthcare workforce. These providers are needed to combat COVID-19 and accelerate efforts to address social determinants of health and create a more equitable healthcare system. AACN joins you in recognizing the importance of strong nursing education pathways and salutes your steadfast support for our nursing schools, faculty, students, practitioners, and the patients they serve.

Again, we thank you for your leadership and unwavering dedication to our current and future nursing workforce. We look forward to continuing our work with you and your staff as we ensure these meaningful initiatives are signed into law. If AACN can be of any assistance on these or other issues, please contact our Director of Government Affairs, Rachel Stevenson, at rstevenson@aacnnursing.org, or 202-463-6930 ext. 271.

Sincerely,

Susan Bakewell-Sachs, PhD, RN, FAAN
Board Chair

Deborah E. Trautman, PhD, RN, FAAN
President and Chief Executive Officer

THE VOICE OF ACADEMIC NURSING