



November 22, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, and Leader McCarthy,

Throughout the pandemic and other public health challenges, we have witnessed how a well-educated nursing workforce is instrumental in sustaining nursing pathways. Support for nursing schools, faculty, and students is needed now more than ever. The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) serves as the national voice of academic nursing and represents more than 850 schools of nursing at public and private universities, who educate more than 565,000 students and employ more than 52,000 faculty.¹ Collectively, these institutions graduate our nation's registered nurses (RN), advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), educators, researchers, scientists, and providers.

As we near the end of the 117th Congress and continue our work to improve our nation's health, we strongly urge Congress to include the following appropriations and legislative priorities in any year-end package.

Support Increased Funding for Nursing Workforce Development and Research

It is essential that Congress swiftly pass a fiscal year (FY) 2023 Omnibus, and include the following funding requests as outlined in the House Appropriations Committee-passed Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies bill:

- **At least \$324.472 million for Nursing Workforce Development programs** (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.]),² and
- **At least \$208.571 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)** from within the overall National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding level.³

Invest in Nursing Education Pathways: Pass the Future Advancement of Academic Nursing (FAAN) Act (S. 246/H.R. 851)

As we evaluate lessons learned from COVID-19, we recognize that investment in academic nursing is imperative in addressing immediate educational needs, while preparing future nursing leaders to

¹ American Association of Colleges of Nursing (2022). The 2021-2022 Federal Policy Agenda. Retrieved from:

<https://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/Policy/PDF/FPA-2021-2022.pdf>

² H.R.8295, The Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2023. Retrieved from: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/8295/text> and the House Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education FY 2023 Committee Report. Pages 52-53 and 800. Retrieved from: <https://www.congress.gov/117/crpt/hrpt403/CRPT-117hrpt403.pdf>


³ H.R.8295, The Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2023. Page 68. Retrieved from: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/8295/text> and the House Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education FY 2023 Committee Report. Pages 124 and 811. Retrieved from: <https://www.congress.gov/117/crpt/hrpt403/CRPT-117hrpt403.pdf>

combat the public health challenges of tomorrow. The Future Advancement of Academic Nursing (FAAN) Act (S. 246/H.R. 851) would help accomplish this by providing resources to:

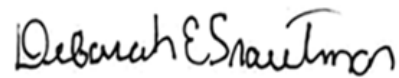
- Enroll and retain nursing students;
- Hire and retain a diverse faculty to educate and prepare the future nursing workforce;
- Support schools of nursing, in partnership with facilities that provide health care, to establish or expand clinical education; and
- Provide other infrastructure support for nursing schools, faculty, and students.

We appreciate your recognition of how vital nursing education, the workforce, and research is to communities throughout the country, including rural and underserved areas. As we near the end of this Congress, including the above priorities in any legislative package is crucial. Should you have any questions, please contact Rachel Stevenson, AACN's Director of Government Affairs, at rstevenson@aacnnursing.org, or 202-463-6930, ext. 271.

Sincerely,



Cynthia McCurren, PhD, RN
Board Chair



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

CC:

All members of the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate