



May 8, 2024

Leah Fitzgerald
Director, Division of Nursing and Public Health
Health Resources and Services Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Director Fitzgerald,

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), we write to express our sincere appreciation for the impactful work that the National Advisory Council on Nurse Education and Practice (NACNEP) is doing to address the challenges facing nursing education by publishing the recent report: *Mitigating Nursing Workforce Challenges by Optimizing Learning Environments*. Specifically, we want to thank you for your efforts to address critical issues impacting the pipeline into nursing, which will have a significant positive impact on future nurses and the communities they serve.

By addressing factors including the nursing faculty shortage, clinical preceptors, and infrastructure, your work is bringing to the forefront the crucial needs of nursing education. A key aspect is the comprehensive nature of the report, the multiple strategies, and evidence supporting the initiatives. Focusing on a wide range of factors, including addressing faculty salaries, innovative preceptor enhancements, and supporting further development of high-quality simulation for nursing education, will help advance competency-based education resulting in a more robust and holistic approach to preparing nurses to provide essential care across practice settings.

By investing in the education of nurses and creating environments where they can thrive, HRSA is ultimately contributing to improved outcomes for communities across the nation.

Once again, we want to express our appreciation and look forward to the opportunity to collaborate with HRSA on efforts supporting innovative approaches to nursing education and workforce. If you have questions, feel free to contact Dr. Brenda Baker at bbaker@aacnnursing.org.

Sincerely,

Jean Giddens, PhD, RN, FAAN, ANEF
Chair, Board of Directors

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

ADVANCING HIGHER EDUCATION IN NURSING