



January 13, 2025

Dear Senator,

On behalf of the [American Association of Colleges of Nursing](https://www.aacnnursing.org) (AACN), we look forward to working with you and your staff in the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress to address legislative priorities essential to your constituents' and our nation's well-being. As the voice of academic nursing, AACN represents over 875 schools of nursing at private and public universities. Our institutions educate more than 520,000 baccalaureate, graduate, and post-graduate nursing students and employ more than 57,000 faculty members who serve as practitioners, educators, and scientists. AACN's member schools are preparing nursing students to be clinicians, leaders, collaborators, and researchers who help support and transform healthcare in our country.

As the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress begins its work, a top priority for AACN is the funding and reauthorization of the Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 296 et. seq]). Administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, these programs ensure the profession's ability to serve patients by strengthening all aspects of the nursing workforce, including education, practice, recruitment, and retention. Last reauthorized in 2020, we believe that it is crucial to provide increased investments for all Title VIII programs and support nursing education, particularly at the baccalaureate, graduate, and post-graduate levels. This will ensure that nurses – the largest segment of the healthcare workforce – can meet the care demands of all communities, including rural and underserved areas.

Another top priority for AACN is robust funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), including the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR), as well as preserving NINR as an independent Institute within the NIH framework. NINR serves as the nation's central hub for nursing research. From examining symptom management and leading end-of-life care research, to investigating the impact of nurse staffing on health outcomes and addressing social determinants of health, the groundbreaking and lifesaving discoveries made by NINR's researchers help advance the science that informs nursing practice and education. AACN recognizes the foundational importance of NINR and dedicated investments in nursing science and research to sustaining the health of the nation.

AACN is honored to convene the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC), which consists of 64 national nursing organizations whose work has resulted in strong consensus on issues that increase access to safe, high-quality care. We strongly invite your support of nursing this Congress and encourage you to consider joining the bipartisan-led Senate Nursing Caucus as an opportunity to advance healthcare and higher education through the nursing lens.

As you look for ways to support nursing education and the healthcare workforce, AACN stands ready to serve as a resource and vital stakeholder to you and your staff. If AACN can be of any assistance, or if you wish to learn more about AACN and our efforts, please contact Rachel Minahan, Director of Government Affairs, at [rminahan@aacnnursing.org](mailto:rminahan@aacnnursing.org). We look forward to working with you this Congress.

Sincerely,

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

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