



July 14, 2025

The Honorable Judy Chu
United States House of Representatives
2423 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Alex Padilla
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Chu and Senator Padilla:

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), we would like to thank you for introducing the Protecting Our Students by Terminating Graduate Rates that Add to Debt (POST GRAD) Act (H.R.3711/S.1948). As the national voice for academic nursing, AACN represents more than 875 schools of nursing that educate more than 540,000 baccalaureate, graduate, and post-graduate students and employ nearly 54,000 faculty members. These institutions are responsible for educating our nation's registered nurses, advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), nurse faculty, and nurse researchers.

AACN commends the introduction of the POST GRAD Act as it would ensure graduate students have additional access to affordable financial aid that is critical to attaining their degree. According to AACN's most recent survey on financing post-baccalaureate education, 69% of graduate nursing students take out federal loans.¹ H.R.3711/S.1948 would allow these students to receive Federal Direct Subsidized Loans, which will help to remove financial barriers to preparing the next generation of nurse educators, APRNs, and nurse researchers. Through this legislation, we can continue to advance robust nursing pathways that serve all communities, including rural and underserved areas across the nation.

Again, we thank you for introducing the POST GRAD Act. If AACN can be of any assistance to you or your staff as you advance this legislation, please contact our Director of Government Affairs, Rachel Minahan, at rminahan@aacnnursing.org.

Sincerely,

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

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

¹ American Association of Colleges of Nursing. (2017). The Numbers Behind the Degree: Financing Graduate Nursing Education. Retrieved from: http://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/Policy/PDF/Debt_Report.pdf