



January 22, 2026

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Thune
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
House Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Thune, Leader Jeffries, and Leader Schumer:

On behalf of 64 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC), we want to extend our appreciation to the members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees for including nursing education, workforce, and research funding in the “Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026.” The NCC urges Members of Congress to vote to pass this bill before the January 30th deadline. A stable, full-year appropriations of **\$305.472 million for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.])** and **\$197.693 million for National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)** is critically important to support our current and future nurses who are so vital to the health of our nation.

The NCC is a cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the nursing profession. Together, the NCC represents Registered Nurses (RNs), Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs),¹ nurse leaders, boards of nursing, students, faculty, and researchers. As the largest segment of the healthcare profession,² nursing is involved at every point of care. We are grateful for the House and Senate Appropriations Committees’ recognition that supporting healthcare in all communities, including in our rural and underserved areas, requires continued investment in nursing.

As the largest dedicated federal funding source for nurses, Title VIII programs bolster and sustain the nation’s nursing pathways by addressing all aspects of nursing workforce demand. From scholarship and loan repayments, to supporting APRNs and future faculty, Title VIII

¹ APRNs include certified nurse-midwives (CNMs), certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs), clinical nurse specialists (CNSs) and nurse practitioners (NPs).

² Smith, Sean and Blank, Andrew. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (June 2023) Healthcare Occupations: Characteristics of the Employed. Slide Two: Employment in the 25 largest healthcare occupations, 2022. Retrieved from: <https://www.bls.gov/spotlight/2023/healthcare-occupations-in-2022/>

programs offer a strategic and cost-effective approach to supporting the nursing workforce and patients across the country.

We have also seen the importance of science in the discussion of cures, patient safety, and preparedness. As an Institute or Center at NIH that directly supports research by nurse scientists, NINR promotes patient-centered care across the life continuum. Since nursing research was established as an independent entity within NIH, NINR has continued developing and testing community-based models, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

As Congress works to pass the bipartisan, bicameral, conferenced bill, we urge you to vote yes. **Your vote will help invest in our nation's nurses by providing \$305.472 million for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs and \$197.693 million for NINR.** If our organizations can be of any assistance, or if you have any questions, please contact the Nursing Community Coalition's Executive Director, Rachel Minahan at rstevenson@thenursingcommunity.org.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
Academy of Neonatal Nursing
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners
American Academy of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
American Association of Heart Failure Nurses
American Association of Neuroscience Nurses
American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American Association of Occupational Health Nurses
American Association of Post-Acute Care Nursing
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Nephrology Nurses Association
American Nurses Association
American Nursing Informatics Association
American Organization for Nursing Leadership
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association, Inc.
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Public Health Association, Public Health Nursing Section
American Society for Pain Management Nursing
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses
Association of Public Health Nurses
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
Association of Veterans Affairs Nurse Anesthetists

Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service
Dermatology Nurses' Association
DNPs of Color
Emergency Nurses Association
Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association
Infusion Nurses Society
International Association of Forensic Nurses
International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Association of Hispanic Nurses
National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Neonatal Nurses
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of School Nurses
National Black Nurses Association
National Council of State Boards of Nursing
National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers
National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence
National League for Nursing
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs
Oncology Nursing Society
Organization for Associate Degree Nursing
Pediatric Endocrinology Nursing Society
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Society of Pediatric Nurses
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates
Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nurses Society

cc:

All members of the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate
Chair Susan Collins, Senate Appropriations Committee
Vice Chair Patty Murray, Senate Appropriations Committee
Chair Shelley Moore Capito, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Ranking Member Tammy Baldwin, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Chairman Tom Cole, House Appropriations Committee
Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro, House Appropriations Committee
Chair Robert Aderholt, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
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