American Association of Colleges of Nursing

November 10, 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,

As Congress continues its work to develop and pass Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 appropriations bills, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) recognizes the need for increased federal investments to support our current and future nursing workforce. As the national voice for academic nursing, AACN represents more than 890 schools of nursing at public and private universities, which educate more than 570,000 students and employ more than 58,000 faculty.[1] Collectively, these institutions graduate our nation's registered nurses (RNs), advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), educators, scientists, and providers.

To support nursing education, workforce, and research, AACN urges you to include the following funding requests in any final FY 2027 appropriations bill:

- **At least $610 million for the Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 296 et. seq])**: The Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs comprise the largest dedicated federal funding source for nursing and strengthen all aspects of the nursing workforce, including education, practice, recruitment, and retention, especially in rural and underserved areas. Through grants, scholarships, and loan repayment opportunities, the Title VIII Programs ensure that nursing pathways remain strong and that patients across the country can continue accessing high-quality nursing care.
- **At least $215 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR):** As one of the 27 Institutes and Centers at NIH, and the only one specifically dedicated to nursing science, NINR is integral to improving care and is on the cutting edge of new innovations that impact how nurses are educated and practice. The scientific research and discovery at NINR are the foundation on which nursing practice is built.

In addition to providing elevated funding for the Title VIII Programs in FY 2027, we also urge you to pass the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act (S.1874/H.R.3593) before the end of this year. This bipartisan legislation would reauthorize these crucial programs for five years and align them with current needs in the profession. Passing this bill in any appropriations

[1] About the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (2026). Retrieved from: https://www.aacnnursing.org/about-aacn.

or end-of-year legislative package is essential to ensuring our profession's ability to serve patients who rely upon nurses amidst current and projected shortages.

Continued and robust support for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs and NINR is critical to an ensuring there is a nursing workforce able to care for the needs of all Americans. AACN appreciates Congress' consideration of these FY 2027 requests and urges you to include this critical funding in any final FY 2027 appropriations bills. If AACN can be of any assistance, please contact AACN's Chief Government Affairs and Policy Officer, Rachel Minahan, at rminahan@aacnnursing.org.

Sincerely,

Julie Sanford, PhD, RN, ANEF, FAAN
Board Chair

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

CC:
Chair Susan Collins, Senate Appropriations Committee
Vice Chair Patty Murray, Senate Appropriations Committee
Chairman Tom Cole, House Appropriations Committee
Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro, House Appropriations Committee