NURSING
COMMUNITY
COALITION

March 23, 2026

The Honorable Jeff Merkley   The Honorable Lauren Underwood
United States Senate   United States House of Representatives
531 Hart Senate Office Building   2228 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510   Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Merkley and Congresswoman Underwood:

On behalf of the 58 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC), we thank you for introducing the Future Advancement of Academic Nursing (FAAN) Act (H.R.6607/S.3435). The NCC is a cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the nursing profession, representing Registered Nurses (RNs), Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs),[1] nurse leaders, boards of nursing, students, faculty, and researchers. Together, the NCC appreciates the introduction of this vital effort to support the cornerstone of the profession, nursing education, and urges Congress to pass the FAAN Act this year.

As champions for the profession, you understand how essential it is to invest in our schools of nursing and faculty as they prepare the students of today to be tomorrow's frontline providers. As we look at the demands of the nursing profession, many turn their eye to education to ensure the workforce pipeline remains strong. However, AACN's annual survey finds that, "the primary barriers to accepting all qualified students at nursing schools continue to be insufficient clinical placement sites, faculty, preceptors, and classroom space, as well as budget cuts."[2] The FAAN Act helps address these barriers by providing resources to enhance enrollment and recruitment of nursing students, hire and retain faculty, and support the modernization of nursing education infrastructure. One critically important aspect of this legislation is that it promotes new opportunities for schools of nursing to partner with nurse-managed health clinics, community health centers, and other health care facilities to create and expand clinical education opportunities. Further, the FAAN Act ensures that priority is given to such designations as medically underserved locations, rural communities, and health professional shortage areas, so these critical resources are allocated to those that need them the most.

As Congress considers ways to support our current and future nursing workforce, and we continue to strive to educate the next generation of frontline nursing leaders, we truly appreciate your support by introducing the Future Advancement of Academic Nursing (FAAN) Act (H.R.6607/S.3435) and strongly

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

[2] American Association of Colleges of Nursing. (2025). Schools of Nursing Enrollment Increases Across Most Program Levels, Signaling Strong Interest in Nursing Careers Retrieved from: https://www.aacnnursing.org/news-data/all-news/article/schools-of-nursing-enrollment-increases-across-most-program-levels-signaling-strong-interest-in-nursing-careers

encourage the passage of this vital effort this Congress. If the Nursing Community Coalition can be of any assistance to you or your staff, please do not hesitate to contact the coalition's Executive Director, Rachel Minahan at rstevenson@thenursingcommunity.org.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
Academy of Neonatal Nursing
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 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
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 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
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Society of Pediatric Nurses
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates
Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nurses Society

cc:
Senator Adam Schiff
Senator Richard Blumenthal
Senator Cory Booker
Senator Tammy Duckworth
Senator John Fetterman
Senator Martin Heinrich
Senator Mazie Hirono
Senator Angus King
Senator Amy Klobuchar
Senator Alex Padilla
Senator Bernie Sanders
Senator Tina Smith
Senator Chris Van Hollen
Senator Peter Welch