

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 13, 2020

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education  
Appropriations Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education  
Appropriations Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

We respectfully request that you invest in the nation's health by providing \$278 million for the Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act, administered by HRSA) in the Fiscal Year 2021 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

With more than four million providers, Registered Nurses (RNs), Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), and other nurses with graduate degrees comprise the largest sector of the healthcare workforce and are essential members of the health professions team. The RN and APRN pipelines rely on Title VIII program support to advance all aspects of the nursing workforce demand, including education, practice, recruitment, and retention. Title VIII programs bolster education at all levels, from entry-level preparation through graduate study. These programs support academic institutions and the nurse faculty who prepare today's nursing students to be tomorrow's expert clinicians.

It is critical that communities across the country have access to evidence-based, high-quality, and timely care. Title VIII programs advance this endeavor by fostering training and employment opportunities to serve those most in need. For example, in Academic Year 2018-2019, the Title VIII Advanced Education Nursing Traineeship program supported 2,324 students, of which 62 percent received training in primary care settings. An additional 3,658 nursing students were supported under the Advanced Nursing Education Workforce program.


The Nursing Workforce Diversity program is another great example of the value of Title VIII. This program has increased opportunities for individuals who are from underrepresented groups and from disadvantaged backgrounds, with more than 11,000 students supported in Academic Year 2018-2019 alone. Additionally, program grantees worked with 789 training sites in medically underserved communities and primary care settings, providing 7,371 clinical training experiences.

These are just a few examples of how strong support and increased funding for our Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs directly contribute to the health care of our nation, especially in rural and underserved areas.

As we celebrate and honor the Year of the Nurse and the Midwife, we recognize that strong investment in the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs translates into a strong investment in the nursing workforce, patient well-being, and the long-term sustainability of our nation's healthcare system. We greatly appreciate your past support and continued commitment to these programs as you consider our request.

Sincerely,

  
Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress

  
Rodney Davis  
Member of Congress

  
Tulsi Gabbard  
Member of Congress

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**Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs  
Fiscal Year 2021 Signatories**

**March 13, 2020**

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