June 4, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray              The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chair                                          Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education            Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee                       Appropriations Committee
United States Senate                          United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510                          Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Murray and Ranking Member Blunt:

We respectfully request that the Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act, administered by HRSA) receive $530 million in Fiscal Year 2022 through the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies appropriations bill. It is imperative to remember that an investment in our nursing workforce today is a commitment to America’s health care now and into the future.

Now, more than ever, it is essential that communities across the nation have access to safe, high-quality nursing care. For over five decades, the Title VIII programs have been helping to train our nation’s nursing workforce. The programs bolster nursing education at all levels, from entry-level preparation through graduate study, and support academic institutions and the nurse faculty who prepare today’s nursing students to be tomorrow’s expert clinicians.

Title VIII Nursing Workforce and Development Programs connect patients with nursing care across a variety of settings, including community health centers, hospitals, and schools of nursing. For example, in Academic Year 2018-2019 the Title VIII Advanced Nurse Education and Advanced Nursing education Workforce Programs supported more than 9,100 students. In fact, Advanced Nursing Education grantees partnered with 1,193 training sites, of which 62 percent were in primary care settings, and 78 percent of Nurse Anesthetist Traineeships program recipients received clinical training in medically-underserved areas.

Title VIII programs also aim to promote a diverse nursing workforce to reflect an increasingly diverse patient population. In Academic Year 2018-2019, the Nursing Workforce Diversity program supported 11,067 nursing students to promote the recruitment of individuals from racial and ethnic minorities underrepresented in registered nursing. Furthermore, these grantees partnered with 789 training sites to provide 7,371 clinical training experiences.

We sincerely appreciate your consideration of our request and understand the difficult decisions your Subcommittee will face in this fiscal climate. However, support for Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs is a direct investment in the nursing workforce, our nation’s well-being, and the sustainability of our health care system.
Sincerely,

Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator

Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator

Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator

Brian Schatz  
United States Senator

Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator

Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator

Tina Smith  
United States Senator

Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator

Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator

Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator
Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator

Ben Ray Luján  
United States Senator

Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator

Kyrsten Sinema  
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator

Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator

Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator

Mark Kelly  
United States Senator

Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator
Jack Reed  
United States Senator

/s/ Sheldon Whitehouse  
Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator

/s/ Jeanne Shaheen  
Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator

Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator

Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator

Raphael G. Warnock  
United States Senator

Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator