THE FUTURE ADVANCEMENT OF ACADEMIC NURSING (FAAN) ACT (S. 246/ H.R. 851)

Request: Cosponsor and Pass the Future Advancement of Academic Nursing (FAAN) Act (S.246/H.R. 851)

As AACN members continue to address and educate our future nursing workforce, more must be done to ensure the health and well-being of all communities throughout the nation. The Future Advancement of Academic Nursing (FAAN) Act (S.246/H.R.851) would invest $1 billion into schools of nursing, including schools in Medically Underserved Communities and Health Professional Shortage Areas, as well as Minority Serving Institutions, to ensure education pathways remain strong during this pandemic and provide long-term emergency preparedness strategies for public health challenges yet to come. Specifically, the FAAN Act (S.246/H.R.851) would help:

ENSURE A STRONG NURSING WORKFORCE

The demand for nurses is growing faster than average for all occupations, as the Bureau of Labor Statistics projects the need for Registered Nurses (RNs) to increase 9% and for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), such as Nurse Anesthetists, Nurse Midwives, and Nurse Practitioners, to increase 45% by 2030. The FAAN Act would help ensure the next generation of nursing leaders are available to meet the nation’s healthcare needs by supporting the enrollment and retention of a diverse student population.

HIRE & RETAIN A DIVERSE FACULTY

In the latest National Advisory Council on Nurse Education and Practice (NACNEP) report, it is estimated that almost one in three nurse faculty members active in 2015 will be set to retire in 2025. Further, minority faculty only represent 17.3% of all faculty positions in schools of nursing. As the nation continues to grapple with COVID-19 and works to eliminate inequities in our healthcare system, the FAAN Act would help meet this objective by supporting the hiring and retention of a diverse nursing faculty.

MODERNIZE NURSING EDUCATION AND SUPPORT CLINICAL PLACEMENT

A recent AACN survey found that insufficient clinical sites and clinical preceptors are a top concern for schools of nursing. For many, this is exacerbated by the realities of COVID-19. The FAAN Act helps address the need for more clinical education sites and preceptors, and provides investments in nursing education infrastructure and resources, including personal protective equipment (PPE) and other items to support the unique remote learning environment.

SUPPORT FUTURE NURSE SCIENTISTS & RESEARCHERS

The FAAN Act provides resources to support schools of nursing as they help prepare future nurse scientists and researchers, who are essential innovators, as health challenges arise. The FAAN Act also supports the establishment of nurse-led partnerships to build upon the framework for future innovation and discoveries.