



January 10, 2023

Dear Senator,

On behalf of the [American Association of Colleges of Nursing](https://www.aacnursing.org/) (AACN), we look forward to working with you and your staff in the 118th Congress to address pressing legislative priorities essential to your constituents' and our nation's well-being. As the voice of academic nursing, AACN represents over 850 schools of nursing at private and public universities. Our institutions educate more than 565,000 baccalaureate, graduate, and post-graduate nursing students and employ more than 52,000 faculty members who serve as scientists, educators, and practitioners. AACN recognizes the foundational role that nursing education plays in preparing frontline healthcare providers and advancing improvements in higher education, research, models of care, and clinical practice.

Our nation's nursing schools, deans, faculty, researchers, and students are integral to addressing current public health issues and those yet to come. As we have seen in efforts to combat COVID-19, a well-educated nursing workforce is essential. For over fifty years, Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 296 et. seq]), have ensured the profession's ability to serve patients, bolstered diversity within the workforce, and strengthened nursing education at all levels, from entry-level preparation through graduate study. We believe that it is crucial to support programs like Title VIII and make other investments in nursing education in order for nurses – the largest segment of the healthcare workforce – to meet the care demands of all communities, including rural and underserved areas.

Another top priority for AACN is robust funding for the National Institutes of Health, including the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR). NINR serves as the nation's central hub for nursing research where nurse scientists, often working collaboratively with other health professionals, are generating and translating new findings focused on cutting edge innovations, lifesaving discoveries, and ways to address social determinants of health. AACN recognizes that science and research are the foundation on which nursing practice is built and essential to advancing evidence-based interventions, informing sound policy, and sustaining the health of the nation.

AACN is honored to convene the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC), which consists of 63 national professional nursing organizations whose work has resulted in profound consensus on issues that aim to increase access to safe, high-quality care. We strongly welcome your support of nursing this Congress and encourage you to consider joining the bipartisan-led Congressional Nursing Caucus as an opportunity to advance health care and higher education through the nursing lens.

As you look for ways to support nursing education and the healthcare workforce, AACN stands ready to serve as a resource and vital stakeholder to you and your staff. We appreciate the opportunity to provide our expertise, analysis, and experience as you address healthcare, higher education, and related legislative issues. If AACN can be of any assistance, or if you wish to learn more about AACN and our efforts, please contact Rachel Stevenson, Director of Government Affairs, at RStevenson@aacnursing.org. We look forward to working with you this Congress.

Sincerely,

Cynthia McCurren, PhD, RN
Board Chair

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

THE VOICE OF ACADEMIC NURSING

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