May 25, 2022

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

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

Dear Chair Murray and Ranking Member Burr:

We respectfully request that the Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act, administered by the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA)) receive $530 million in Fiscal Year 2023 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 2020-2021 the Title VIII Advanced Nurse Education Programs supported more than 8,800 students. In fact, Advanced Nursing Education Workforce (ANEW) Program grantees partnered with 2,049 training sites, of which 75 percent were in primary care settings, and 81 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 2020-2021, the Nursing Workforce Diversity program supported 10,155 students to promote the recruitment of individuals from racial and ethnic minorities underrepresented in registered nursing. Furthermore, these grantees partnered with 778 training sites to provide 9,920 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

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

Tina Smith
United States Senator

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator

Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

Jack Reed
United States Senator

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

Tim Kaine
United States Senator

Brian Schatz
United States Senator

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

Robert Menendez
United States Senator

Alex Padilla
United States Senator

Jon Tester
United States Senator

Jacky Rosen
United States Senator
Ron Wyden
United States Senator

Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

Ben Ray Luján
United States Senator

Jon Ossoff
United States Senator

Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Mark Kelly
United States Senator

Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

Martin Heinrich
United States Senator

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

Raphael G. Warnock
United States Senator

Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator

Mark R. Warner
United States Senator