



April 3, 2026

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Moore Capito, Chair Aderholt, Ranking Member Baldwin, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

On behalf of 58 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC), we respectfully request your support of **at least \$610 million for the Nursing Workforce Development Programs** (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 296 et. seq]) **and at least \$215 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2027**. As Congress begins its work to develop a FY 2027 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (LHHS-ED) Appropriations bill, it is imperative that federal investments in nursing education, workforce development, and research reflect the heightened health care needs of patients across the country, as well as the increased demand for the nurses who care for them. We appreciate Congress' commitment to investing in these priorities in FY 2026 and urge you to make much needed increases to the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs and NINR in FY 2027.

Investing in our Nation's Health: The Need to Support Federal Nursing Programs

The NCC is a cross-section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the nursing profession. Together, the NCC represents Registered Nurses (RNs), Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs),¹ nurse leaders, boards of nursing, students, faculty, and researchers.

¹ APRNs include Certified Nurse-Midwives (CNMs), Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs), Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNSs), and Nurse Practitioners (NPs).

As the largest segment of the healthcare profession,² nursing is involved at every point of care. We recognize that supporting healthcare in all communities, including in rural and underserved areas, requires continued investment in nursing. This is especially true as the need for a well-educated nursing workforce is expected to grow dramatically in the next few years. In particular, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) projects the demand for RNs to increase by 5% through 2034, representing 189,100 job openings each year.³ The demand for most APRNs is also expected to grow by 35%.⁴ These needs are compounded by continued nursing staffing shortages and high workloads that strain the profession. The 2024 National Nursing Workforce Survey further outlines how 138,000 nurses have left the workforce since 2022 and about 40% of respondents expressed an intent to leave or retire from the workforce in the next 5 years.⁵ Bold investments in Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs and NINR are critical, especially with an aging population and an increased need for nurses throughout the country. Maximum federal funding for Title VIII programs and NINR will not only address the current needs of the nursing profession but also advance the healthcare workforce of tomorrow.

Title VIII Nursing Workforce Programs: Essential to Supporting America's Health

As the largest federal funding source for nurses, Title VIII programs bolster and sustain the nation's nursing pipeline by addressing all aspects of nursing workforce demand. From scholarship and loan repayments, to supporting APRNs and future faculty, Title VIII programs offer a strategic and cost-effective approach to supporting the nursing workforce and patients across the country. For example, in Academic Year (AY) 2022-2023:

- Advanced Nursing Education (ANE) programs supported more than 8,000 students and provided for “over 2 million hours of patient care and nearly 900,000 patient encounters [that] occurred in medically underserved communities.”⁶
- Graduates of Title VIII not only advance their education but also work or serve in medically underserved areas. In fact, more than three-quarters of Nurse Corps providers were employed in community-based settings and 20% were in rural communities.⁷
- 74% of Nurse Faculty Loan Program (NFLP) graduates from AY 2021-2022 were in faculty positions one year later, with the majority teaching at the bachelor's level or higher.⁸
- Programs like Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention (NEPQR), supported over 10,300 nurses and nursing students, help with the development, distribution, and

² Smith, Sean and Blank, Andrew. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (June 2023) Healthcare Occupations: Characteristics of the Employed. Slide Two: Employment in the 25 largest healthcare occupations, 2022. Retrieved from: <https://www.bls.gov/spotlight/2023/healthcare-occupations-in-2022/>

³ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2026). Occupational Outlook Handbook-Registered Nurses. Retrieved from: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/registered-nurses.htm>

⁴ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2026). Occupational Outlook Handbook- Nurse Anesthetists, Nurse Midwives, and Nurse Practitioners. Retrieved from: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/nurse-anesthetists-nurse-midwives-andnurse-practitioners.htm>

⁵ National Council of State Boards of Nursing. (2024). Results of the 2024 National Nursing Workforce Study. Retrieved from: <https://www.ncsbn.org/workforce> (full journal article available at: [https://www.journalofnursingregulation.com/article/S2155-8256\(25\)00047-X/fulltext](https://www.journalofnursingregulation.com/article/S2155-8256(25)00047-X/fulltext))

⁶ Health Resources and Services Administration. Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Justification. Pages 143-146. Retrieved from: <https://web.archive.org/web/20250308124649/https://www.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/hrsa/about/budget/budgetjustification-fy2025.pdf>

⁷ Ibid, Pages 157-161.

⁸ Ibid, Pages 154-156.

retention of a nursing workforce that can adapt to the population’s changing health care needs and provide the highest quality of care for all.⁹

These examples illustrate the necessity of these crucial programs in recruiting and retaining nurses in the communities they serve, particularly in rural areas. These programs directly connect patients with high-quality nursing care in community health centers, hospitals, long-term care facilities, local and state health departments, schools, workplaces, and patients’ homes. With more than 5 million nurses throughout the country¹⁰ and an additional demand for nurses to serve our communities, Title VIII programs are a strategic and necessary investment to support in FY 2027.

Advancing Health Innovation Through Nursing Science and Research

We have also seen the importance of science in the discussion of cures, patient safety, and preparedness. NINR is one of 27 Institutes and Centers at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) that is dedicated to nursing science. NINR continues developing and testing community-based models, particularly in rural and underserved areas. It is through the substantial work of nurse researchers and scientists that we have seen:

- Prevention and care for low birthweight infants, which, “improved the infant’s environment, was safe and effective, and ‘saved approximately \$18,560 per infant in hospital and physician costs.’”¹¹
- Symptom management for those with Alzheimer’s “—including a ‘remarkable series of genetic discoveries’—contributed to ‘major advances’ in understanding the disease.”¹²
- Development of the Braden Scale to reduce pressure sores, a condition that impacts millions and adds an estimated “\$9 billion in annual health care costs.”¹³
- End-of-life research that helped elders both to develop an advance directive and maintain a continuity of care, thereby “increasing the likelihood” that their wishes would be followed.¹⁴
- Research documenting that adequate nursing staffing models lead to a positive work environment, lower staff turnover and burnout, and increase patient safety and satisfaction.¹⁵

The innovative and compelling research by our nation’s nurse scientists directly advances nursing education, supports faculty and nursing schools, and is essential to developing new

⁹ Health Resources and Services Administration. Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Justification. Pages 151-153. Retrieved from: <https://web.archive.org/web/20250308124649/https://www.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/hrsa/about/budget/budgetjustification-fy2025.pdf>.

¹⁰ National Council of State Boards of Nursing. (2025). Active RN Licenses: A profile of nursing licensure in the U.S. Retrieved from: <https://www.ncsbn.org/nursing-regulation/national-nursing-database/licensure-statistics/active-rnlicenses.page>

¹¹ Cantelon, Philip L. PhD. National Institute of Nursing Research, NINR, Bringing Science to Life. (September 2010). Page 87. Retrieved from: https://www.ninr.nih.gov/sites/default/files/NINR_History_Book_508.pdf

¹² Ibid, Pages 180-185.

¹³ The National Institute of Nursing Research, Changing Practice, Changing Lives: 10 Landmark Nursing Research Studies. Page 5. Retrieved from: <https://www.ninr.nih.gov/sites/default/files/docs/10-landmark-nursing-researchstudies.pdf>

¹⁴ Cantelon, Philip L. PhD. National Institute of Nursing Research, NINR, Bringing Science to Life. (September 2010). Page 194. Retrieved from: https://www.ninr.nih.gov/sites/default/files/NINR_History_Book_508.pdf

¹⁵ The National Institute of Nursing Research, Changing Practice, Changing Lives: 10 Landmark Nursing Research Studies. Pages 3-4. Retrieved from: <https://www.ninr.nih.gov/sites/default/files/docs/10-landmark-nursing-researchstudies.pdf>

evidence-based practices to care for all patients. Through increased investments in NINR, and retaining NINR as an independent Institute, nurse researchers and scientists will be able to continue their invaluable work at the forefront of chronic disease prevention, patient care, and recovery.

As Congress works to develop a bipartisan LHHs-ED funding bill for FY 2027, the NCC urges you to invest in our nation's nurses by providing **at least \$610 million for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs and at least \$215 million for NINR**. If our organizations can be of any assistance, or if you have any questions, please contact the Nursing Community Coalition's Executive Director, Rachel Minahan, at rstevenson@thenursingcommunity.org.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
Academy of Neonatal Nursing
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners
American Academy of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
American Association of Heart Failure Nurses
American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American Association of Occupational Health Nurses
American Association of Post-Acute Care Nursing
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Nephrology Nurses Association
American Nurses Association
American Organization for Nursing Leadership
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association, Inc.
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Public Health Association, Public Health Nursing Section
American Society for Pain Management Nursing
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
Association for Radiologic and Imaging Nursing
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses
Association of Public Health Nurses
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service
Dermatology Nurses' Association
DNP's of Color
Emergency Nurses Association
Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research

Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association
Infusion Nurses Society
International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Association of Hispanic Nurses
National Association of Neonatal Nurses
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of School Nurses
National Black Nurses Association
National Council of State Boards of Nursing
National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers
National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence
National League for Nursing
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs
Oncology Nursing Society
Organization for Associate Degree Nursing
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Society of Pediatric Nurses
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates
Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nurses Society

CC:

Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Susan Collins
Senate Appropriations Committee Vice Chair Patty Murray
House Appropriations Committee Chairman Tom Cole
House Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro
Senate Majority Leader John Thune
Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer
Speaker of the House Mike Johnson
House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries
House Appropriation Committee Members
Senate Appropriation Committee Members