



June 24, 2026

The Honorable Suzanne Bonamici
United States House of Representatives
2231 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
United States Senate
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lauren Underwood
United States House of Representatives
2228 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Angela Alsobrooks
United States Senate
374 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Mannion
United States House of Representatives
1516 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Merkley, Senator Alsobrooks, Congresswoman Bonamici, Congresswoman Underwood, and Congressman Mannion:

On behalf of the 53 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC), we thank you for introducing the Congressional Review Act (CRA) Joint Resolution (H.J.Res.189/S.J.Res.196). The NCC is a cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the nursing profession, representing Registered Nurses (RNs), Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs),¹ nurse leaders, boards of nursing, students, faculty, and researchers. Together, the NCC appreciates this effort to invalidate the Department of Education's final rule related to the Reimagining and Improving Student Education (RISE) Federal Student Loan Program Final Regulation and supports its swift passage.

As we work to ensure that advanced nursing education pathways remain strong, guaranteeing that nursing is designated as a professional degree is imperative. Unfortunately, the Department of Education's final rule implementing the newly established annual and aggregate student loan limits did not include nursing in the professional degree category, despite the Department's acknowledgement that post-baccalaureate nursing programs met the three-part criteria put forward by Congress in P.L. 119-21. Further, the Department disregarded the widespread and bipartisan support from more than 160 members of Congress. Excluding nurses in the decision-making process as well as ignoring overwhelming support, ongoing workforce needs, and data that outlined how post-

¹ APRNs include certified nurse-midwives (CNMs), certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs), clinical nurse specialists (CNSs) and nurse practitioners (NPs)

baccalaureate nursing degrees (MSN, DNP, DNAP, PhD) should be categorized as a professional degree, outlines why we need to do all we can to change this rule.

This Congressional Review Act Joint Resolution (H.J.Res.189/S.J.Res.196) does just that by invalidating this rule and providing another opportunity to ensure that nursing and other key professions are included in the professional degree designation going forward. Therefore, we support the passage of this CRA before the sixty-day deadline. If the Nursing Community Coalition can be of any assistance to you or your staff, please do not hesitate to contact the 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 Neuroscience Nurses
American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American Association of Post-Acute Care Nursing
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Nephrology Nurses Association
American Nurses Association
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Public Health Association, Public Health Nursing Section
American Society for Pain Management Nursing
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators
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
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service
Dermatology Nurses' Association
DNPs of Color
Emergency Nurses Association
Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association
International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Association of Hispanic Nurses

National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Neonatal Nurses
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of School Nurses
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
NurseTRUST
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 Majority Leader John Thune
Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer
Speaker of the House Mike Johnson
House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries