



July 10, 2026

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Vice Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Collins and Vice Chair Murray:

On behalf of the 62 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC), we appreciate your support of vital funding for our nation's nursing workforce. As you consider your Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations package, we encourage you to consider:

- **Increasing funding for all Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs** (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.]), including at least \$610 million in FY 2027;
- **Providing additional funding for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)**, including at least \$215 million in FY 2027; and,
- **Supporting nursing as a professional degree** by including the following language unanimously [adopted](#) on a bipartisan basis by the House Appropriations Committee: *"SEC. __. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to administer Title IV federal student aid programs in a manner that does not designate advanced nursing programs as professional degree programs. For purposes of this section, the term "advanced nursing program" means a post-baccalaureate educational program that prepares students for advanced practice registered nursing licensure, certification, or authorization, including nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, certified nurse midwife, certified registered nurse anesthetist, or other advanced practice registered nurse programs."*

As the Committee continues to consider policies to ensure that patients have access to high-quality healthcare, it is imperative that nursing education, workforce, and research funding reflects the heightened needs of American communities. We appreciate the Committee's commitment to supporting our nation's nurses and urge you to support these critical investments in FY 2027.

The Need to Support our Current and Future Nursing Workforce

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

Promoting America's Health Through Nursing Care

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Registered Nurses (APRNs),¹ nurse leaders, boards of nursing, students, faculty, and researchers. As the largest segment of the health care profession,² nursing is involved at every point of care. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) projects the demand for RNs will increase 5% through 2034,³ and the demand for most APRNs is expected to grow by 35%.⁴ With an aging population and an increased need for nurses throughout the country, including our rural and underserved areas, protecting the nursing education pipeline and making bold investments in Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs and NINR are critical, not only as we address the current needs of the profession, but as we prepare for the health care workforce of tomorrow.

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

As the largest dedicated federal funding for nurses, Title VIII Programs bolster and sustain the nation's nursing pipeline by addressing all aspects of nursing workforce demand. From scholarships 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. Investments in these programs help retain nurses as providers and valued healthcare experts within the communities they serve. To support this work, it is imperative that FY 2027 funding for all of the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs meets levels reflecting the nursing population they serve in order to achieve maximum efficiency.

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. As the only Institute or Center at NIH that directly supports research by nurse scientists, NINR promotes patient-centered care across the life continuum. The innovative research by our nation's nurses and scientists directly shapes nursing education, supports faculty and nursing schools, and is essential to developing new evidence-based practices to care for all patients. Through increased investments in NINR, nurse researchers and scientists will be able to continue their invaluable work at the forefront of chronic disease prevention, patient care, and recovery.

Protecting Nursing Education Pathways: Recognizing Nursing as a Professional Degree

As we address the Department of Education's final rule arbitrarily limiting the federal student loans available to post-baccalaureate nursing students, we urge the Committee to include the bipartisan House Appropriations language in your FY 2027 package. Our post-baccalaureate nurses are an essential part of our healthcare system, particularly for our rural and underserved communities. It is critically important that we protect nursing education pathways and remove barriers to entering the profession so that our nurses can continue their education and serve patients across the country.

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

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-and-nurse-practitioners.htm>

As we support America's health, we urge you to **invest in our nation's nurses by providing at least \$610 million for Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs and at least \$215 million for the NINR in FY 2027, as well as supporting nursing as a professional degree.** We appreciate the committee's bipartisan work to safeguard the public's well-being by putting forward strategic investments for these critical programs. 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 Neuroscience 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 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
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal 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

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 Nurse Practitioners
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
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
Senate Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Subcommittee Chair Shelley Moore Capito
Senate Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Subcommittee Ranking Member Tammy Baldwin
All Members of the Senate Committee on Appropriations