



May 11, 2026

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Thune
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
House Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Thune, Leader Jeffries, and Leader Schumer,

As we continue to celebrate National Nurses Week (May 6 – 12), all 65 members of the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC) urge Congress to support our current and future nurses, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs),¹ nurse leaders, boards of nursing, faculty, and scientists. The NCC represents a cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within nursing. As the largest segment of the health care profession,² and as the most trusted profession,³ Congress' support of the nursing workforce is crucial to ensuring that patients have access to high-quality and timely care. As recognized by the National Academies of Medicine, "what nursing brings to the future is a steadfast commitment to patient care, improved safety and quality, and better outcomes."⁴

As Congress looks to support our nation's nursing workforce during National Nurses Week and beyond, the NCC expresses our strong support for the consideration and passage of the following legislative priorities that directly impact nursing education, workforce, and research, including:

- **Support Nursing as a Professional Degree:** We appreciate Congress' bipartisan engagement in support of nursing as a professional degree. Unfortunately, the Department of Education's Reimaging and Improving Student Education (RISE) final rule, released on May 1, 2026, excludes post-baccalaureate nursing degrees from the list of

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 Gallup. (January 2026) Nurses Continue to Lead in Honesty and Ethics Ratings. Retrieved from: <https://news.gallup.com/poll/700736/nurses-continue-lead-honesty-ethics-ratings.aspx>

⁴ National Academies of Medicine. (2021) The Future of Nursing 2020-2030. Retrieved from: <https://nap.nationalacademies.org/download/25982>

“professional” degrees. As we move forward, the NCC supports legislative efforts led by House and Senate Nursing Caucus leaders that address this issue, including:

- **Nursing is a Professional Degree Act (H.R.8691):** Led by Representatives Jen Kiggans (R-VA-02), David Joyce (R-OH-14), Don Bacon (R-NE-02), Jack Bergman (R-MI-01), and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA-01), this bill explicitly adds nursing as a professional degree under the Higher Education Act. A companion bill is expected to be introduced by Senator Merkley (D-OR) in the Senate soon.

Committee of Jurisdiction: House Education and Workforce Committee.

- **A Congressional Review Act Joint Resolution:** Led by Representatives Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR-01), Lauren Underwood (D-IL-14), and John Mannion (D-NY-22), this joint resolution would invalidate the Department of Education’s final rule. A companion bill is expected to be introduced by Senator Merkley in the Senate soon.

Committee of Jurisdiction: House Education and Workforce Committee.

- **Support at least \$610 million for Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs in Fiscal Year (FY) 2027:** As the largest dedicated federal funding for nurses, the Title VIII Programs are smart investments that 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 our nursing workforce. With an aging population and need to support our frontline providers, especially in rural and underserved settings, funding for Title VIII must meet levels reflecting the nursing population it serves.

Committees of Jurisdiction: House Appropriations Committee, Senate Appropriations Committee.

- **Support our nurse scientists and researchers throughout the National Institutes of Health (NIH) by providing at least \$215 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) in FY 2027:** 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 translational research by our nation’s nurses and scientists at NINR and throughout NIH is essential to developing new evidence-based practices to care for all patients. Nurse researchers and scientists bring a unique perspective as they continue their work at the forefront of disease prevention, patient care, and recovery.

Committees of Jurisdiction: House Appropriations Committee, Senate Appropriations Committee.

- **Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2025 (S.1874/H.R.3593):** A bipartisan bill that provides a straight reauthorization of the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs through FY 2030 and allows existing funding to be used to support clinical education, nurse preceptors, and more faculty, as well as promoting academic-practice partnerships.

Committees of Jurisdiction: House Energy and Commerce Committee, Senate Health Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee.

- **Nurse Faculty Shortage Reduction Act of 2026 (S.3707/H.R.7279):** As our nation continues to face a nursing workforce shortage, including a nurse faculty shortage, this

bipartisan bill would provide grant funding to close the pay gap between faculty and clinical nurses.

Committees of Jurisdiction: House Energy and Commerce Committee, Senate Health Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee.

- **Future Advancement of Academic Nursing (FAAN) Act (S.3435/H.R.6607):** This bill provides vital resources to support the needs of nursing students, help retain and hire faculty, modernize nursing education infrastructure, and create and expand clinical education opportunities.

Committees of Jurisdiction: House Energy and Commerce Committee, Senate Health Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee.

- **Providing Real-World Education and Clinical Experience by Precepting Tomorrow's (PRECEPT) Nurses Act (S.131/H.R.392):** Clinical preparation is a cornerstone of nursing education and requires clinical preceptors, most of whom are nurses, to help guide and develop the skills and competencies of our future nursing workforce. This bipartisan bill is an innovative approach to supporting clinical education by providing a \$2,000 tax credit to those who serve at least 200 hours as a clinical preceptor to nursing students, advanced practice nursing students, or newly hired licensed nurses, with specific emphasis on those in a Health Professional Shortage Area.

Committees of Jurisdiction: House Ways and Means Committee, Senate Finance Committee.

- **Nurse Corps Tax Parity Act of 2025 (S.1548/H.R.3145):** Creates parity between the Nurse Corps and other federal programs, such as the National Health Service Corps (NHSC), by eliminating the federal income tax on Nurse Corps scholarships and loan repayments.

Committees of Jurisdiction: House Ways and Means Committee, Senate Finance Committee.

- **Improving Care and Access to Nurses (I CAN) Act (S.575/H.R.1317):** APRNs provide high-quality care in all settings and in areas throughout the nation, including rural and underserved communities. As of 2023, 289,000 APRNs treated Medicare patients and over 40% of Medicare beneficiaries received care from an APRN.⁵ The I CAN Act would remove outdated barriers in the Medicare and Medicaid programs that currently prevent APRNs from practicing to the full extent of their education and clinical training.

Committees of Jurisdiction: House Energy and Commerce and House Ways and Means Committees, Senate Finance Committee.

- **Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act of 2025 (S.3296/H.R.3170):** Retires outdated barriers in the Federal Employee's Compensation Act (FECA) that limit the ability of NPs to diagnose and oversee the care and treatment of federal employees who are injured or become ill in the course of their employment.

⁵ Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Data.CMS.gov. CMS Program Statistics-Medicare Providers. (2023) Retrieved from: <https://data.cms.gov/summary-statistics-on-provider-enrollment/medicare-provider-type-reports/cms-program-statistics-medicare-providers>

This bill was passed out of the House Education and Workforce Committee unanimously in June 2025.

Committees of Jurisdiction: House Education and Workforce Committee, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

- **National Nursing Workforce Center Act of 2025 (S.1482/H.R.4407):** Creates a pilot program to help establish or expand state-based nursing workforce centers and requires the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to establish a center focused on nursing.
Committees of Jurisdiction: House Energy and Commerce Committee, Senate Health Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee.
- **Midwives for MOMS Act (S.1599/H.R.6394):** Supports the establishment or expansion of midwifery programs at institutions of higher education and nursing schools.
Committees of Jurisdiction: House Energy and Commerce Committee, Senate Health Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee.
- **Momnibus Act (H.R.7973):** From growing the perinatal workforce, supporting moms' mental health, and aiding our pregnant and postpartum veterans, the Momnibus Act provides a multipronged approach to addressing maternal health in the United States.
Committees of Jurisdiction: House Energy and Commerce, Education and Workforce, Veterans' Affairs, Natural Resources, and Judiciary Committees.
- **United States Cadet Nurse Corps Service Recognition Act of 2025 (S.3329/H.R.6203):** This bipartisan bill recognizes the nearly 120,000 nurses who answered the call by honorably caring for servicemen and women during World War II.
Committees of Jurisdiction: House Veterans' Affairs and Armed Services Committees, Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee.
- **Support nursing workforce safety measures, maternal health, veterans' health, mental health, and public health:** The NCC also supports several other policy priorities that impact nurses and patients across the nation. From maternal health, public and population health, veterans' health, and mental health, to supporting the safety and well-being of our nursing workforce and protecting them from physical violence, successfully connecting sound policy with impactful implementation is essential to ensuring an efficient health delivery system for all. It is imperative that legislation focuses on access to the entire continuum of services provided by RNs and APRNs, and removes unnecessary barriers to patients receiving that care.

With more than five million licensed RNs, APRNs, and nursing students, the profession embodies the drive and passion to ensure the health of patients, families, and our country continues to improve.⁶ We urge Congress, especially during National Nurses Week, to take legislative action to support the current and future nursing workforce, and honor the essential work nurses provide to our health care system and to the health of our nation. As these conversations continue, and if our organizations can be of any assistance or if you have any questions, please

⁶ National Council of State Boards of Nursing. (2026). Active RN Licenses-A Profile of Nursing Licensure in the U.S. Retrieved from: <https://www.ncsbn.org/active-rn-licenses>

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 Occupational Health Nurses
American Association of Post-Acute Care Nursing
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Nephrology Nurses Association
American Nurses Association
American Nursing Informatics Association
American Organization for Nursing Leadership
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association, Inc.
American Public Health Association, Public Health Nursing Section
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
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 Veterans Affairs Nurse Anesthetists
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
Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
Emergency 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
Pediatric Endocrinology Nursing Society
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Society of Pediatric Nurses
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates
Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nurses Society

CC: All members of the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate