



Next Step, House Floor: Title VIII Reauthorization Advances out of Energy and Commerce Committee

July 17, 2019 – The Nursing Community Coalition (NCC) thanks the House Energy and Commerce Committee for advancing H.R. 728 the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act to the House Floor. This legislation would reauthorize the Nursing Workforce Development Programs (authorized under Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 296 et. seq]) through Fiscal Year 2024. Title VIII Reauthorization is supported by all 62 members of the NCC and remains our number one priority this Congress.

“Nurses are too often the unsung heroes of our health care system. They provide life-saving care and reassurance during life’s most challenging moments. Unfortunately, communities across the country are experiencing nursing shortages while our population continues to rapidly age. We need to meet these challenges head-on by investing in workforce development programs that support training and retaining a strong, diverse, and dedicated nurse workforce across all care settings,” said Congresswoman Matsui, Co-Chair of the Democratic Task Force on Aging and Families. “I am proud to shepherd the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act through the Energy and Commerce Committee, and I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the pass this bill through the full House.”

The NCC applauds the House Energy and Commerce Committee, Chairman Frank Pallone (D-NJ), and Ranking Member Greg Walden (R-OR) for their efforts to support the nursing profession. Additionally, we would like to thank the sponsor of H.R. 728, Representative David Joyce (R-OH), as well as the original cosponsors Representatives Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI), Doris Matsui (D-CA), Rodney Davis (R-IL), Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR), Kathy Castor (D-FL), David McKinley (R-WV), and Lauren Underwood (D-IL) for their unwavering dedication to advancing this legislation and ensuring that we can continue to train and retain nurses today and in the future.

“Nurses are the backbone of our nation’s health care system, and any challenge they face hurts the health and wellbeing of the American people,” said Rep. Dave Joyce (OH-14). “With our nation on the verge of a nursing shortage, it is critical that we do all we can to support recruitment and retention programs to ensure those who are interested in pursuing a career in nursing have access to the high-quality education and training opportunities necessary to do so. I was pleased to see the House Energy and Commerce Committee recognize that need today by unanimously passing my bill, the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2019. I look forward to seeing this critical legislation be brought to the House floor for a vote as soon as possible.”

Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs bolster nursing education at all levels, support institutions that educate future nurses, strengthen the nursing workforce, and are essential to ensuring the demand for nursing care is met throughout this nation, especially in rural and underserved areas.

The NCC looks forward to swift passage of Title VIII Reauthorization on the House Floor and remains an active partner to ensure this legislation is passed in the 116th Congress.

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The Nursing Community Coalition includes 62 national nursing organizations that are the cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the profession. Collectively, the coalition represents registered nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, nurse faculty, nurse executives, researchers, and students. The coalition is committed to promoting efforts that advance the health of our nation through nursing care.

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