June 1, 2018

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chairman  
Ranking Member  
Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee  
Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee  
United States Senate  
United States Senate  
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
154 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray,

On behalf of the Nursing Community Coalition, we would like to thank you for holding the hearing titled The Healthcare Workforce: Addressing Shortages and Improving Care on May 22, 2018. Your commitment to investigating solutions that will increase the supply and decrease the demand for healthcare professionals reinforces the critical intersection that policy must address: the right care, by the right provider, at the right time. We know that a robust workforce is an essential linchpin in increasing access, reducing costs, and improving health and wellness. For this reason, our coalition’s top legislative priority in the 115th Congress is the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act (S. 1109). The Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs are a mainstay in the professions’ ability to provide care where it is needed most.

The demand for nurses inevitably varies by state, but the national need is projected to increase by 28% by the year 2030.1 This demand is heightened in the 7,243 designated Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas and 4,243 designated Medically Underserved Areas throughout the country that impact over 84 million Americans.2 The Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs have been successful in both the short- and long-term as a way to not only increase the supply of nurses able to care for patients, but also increase the number of nurse educators.

During the hearing, Dr. Julie Sanford, Director and Professor at the James Madison University, School of Nursing, was able to showcase the success the Title VIII programs have in meeting population care needs, particularly in those rural and underserved communities. She highlighted how these programs bring opportunities to individuals in educationally disadvantaged areas so that the focus is on building a highly-qualified nursing workforce where they live and work. In turn, this reduces the challenge of trying to recruit professionals to the area. Dr. Sanford’s personal experience with the Title VIII programs speaks to their far reaching impact and most importantly how these programs allow for her achievements to be mirrored by countless nurses across the country. Dr. Sanford aptly highlighted the fact that these programs allow for innovation to meet the changing care needs, like the opioid epidemic. Over the years, our experience as a coalition has been that the Title VIII programs’ design is appropriate to

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address major national concerns such as primary care shortages or helping to build an interprofessional team. Therefore, the Nursing Community Coalition agrees that S. 1109 is the right policy as it makes a few important modernizations and maintains the current structure. This legislation will allow Title VIII to continue its critical work—building the supply and distribution of qualified nurses and nurse faculty by bolstering nursing education at all levels.

The coalition looks forward to supporting the committee’s efforts on the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act. 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, Dr. Suzanne Miyamoto, at smiyamoto@aacnnursing.org or 202-463-6930, ext. 247.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses  
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing  
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 Anesthetists  
American Association of Occupational Health Nurses  
American Association of Nurse Practitioners  
American College of Nurse-Midwives  
American Nephrology Nurses’ Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Nursing Informatics Association  
American Organization of Nurse Executives  
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association  
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 Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service  
Dermatology Nurses’ Association  
Emergency Nurses Association  
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association  
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association  
Infusion Nurses Society  
International Association of Forensic Nurses  
International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
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 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
Pediatric Endocrinology Nursing Society
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Society of Pediatric Nurses

CC:
The Honorable Michael Enzi
The Honorable Richard Burr
The Honorable Johnny Isakson
The Honorable Rand Paul
The Honorable Susan Collins
The Honorable Bill Cassidy, MD
The Honorable Todd Young
The Honorable Orrin Hatch
The Honorable Pat Roberts
The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
The Honorable Tim Scott
The Honorable Bernie Sanders
The Honorable Robert Casey, Jr
The Honorable Michael Bennet
The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
The Honorable Christopher Murphy
The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
The Honorable Tim Kaine
The Honorable Maggie Hassan
The Honorable Tina Smith
The Honorable Doug Jones