



June 1, 2018

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
Committee
United States Senate
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
Committee
United States Senate
154 Russell Senate Office Building
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

¹ Health Resources and Services Administration. *Supply and Demand Projections of the Nursing Workforce: 2014-2030*. Retrieved from: https://bhw.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/bhw/nchwa/projections/NCHWA_HRSA_Nursing_Report.pdf.

² Health Resources and Services Administration. Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics. Retrieved from: <https://datawarehouse.hrsa.gov/topics/shortageAreas.aspx>.

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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