



July 12, 2016

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
United States Senate
313 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Burr
United States Senate
217 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Merkley and Senator Burr:

On behalf of the 51 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community coalition, we write in full support of the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2016, which will reauthorize the Health Resources and Services Administration's Nursing Workforce Development programs (authorized under Title VIII of the *Public Health Service Act* [42 U.S.C. 296 et. seq]) through fiscal year 2021. Collectively, the Nursing Community represents over one million registered nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, nurse executives, nursing students, faculty, and researchers. The Nursing Community is committed to improving the health and health care of our nation by collaborating to support the education and practice of Registered Nurses and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses. The Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act is a critical investment that will enhance the future of the nursing profession as it continues to provide our nation's patients with the high-quality healthcare services needed for a healthier tomorrow.

For over fifty years, Title VIII has helped to build the supply and distribution of qualified nurses to meet our nation's healthcare needs. These programs bolster nursing education at all levels, increase the number of nurses in the workforce, and provide support for institutions that educate the future nurses who are essential to ensuring the demand for nursing care is met. Nurses supported through these programs go on to provide high-quality, evidence-based practice to patients in a variety of settings, including hospitals, long-term care facilities, community centers, state and local health departments, schools, workplaces, and patient homes.

We want to thank you for introducing this legislation, which will ensure a strong pipeline of nurses today and in the future. The Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act is vital for the sustainability of America's health as it would ensure the Nursing Workforce Development programs have a current federal authorization necessary for funding in future fiscal years and proposes minor technical changes to align the programs with current roles in nursing practice.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
American Academy of Nursing
American Assembly for Men in Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses

American Association of Heart Failure Nurses
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists
American Association of Nurse Assessment Coordination
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Nephrology Nurses Association
American Nurses Association
American Organization of Nurse Executives
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Society for Pain Management Nursing
American Society Perianesthesia Nurses
Association for Radiologic and Imaging Nurses
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
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association
Infusion Nurses Society
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 Black Nurses Association
National Council of State Boards of Nursing
National Gerontological Nurses Associations
National League for Nursing
National Nurse-Led Centers Consortium
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs
Oncology Nursing Society
Organization for Associate Degree Nursing
Pediatric Endocrinology Nursing Society
Public Health Nursing Section, American Public Health Association
Society of Urologic Nurses And Associates
The Quad-Council of Public Health Nursing Organizations
Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society