

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 26, 2015

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education  
Appropriations Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education  
Appropriations Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

We respectfully request that you maintain a strong commitment to the Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act, administered by HRSA) in Fiscal Year 2016 as you work to complete your Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill.

It is critical that the nation prepares now for the current and impending strains on our healthcare system. Emerging care delivery models, a growing number of patients with multiple chronic conditions, baby boomers requiring additional health services, increased access to the healthcare system, and an aging healthcare workforce are converging to create a perfect storm. Weathering these challenges requires a significant investment in nursing.

Registered Nurses and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses provide high-quality and cost-effective care in communities across the country. As our nation's healthcare system transforms and more services are provided outside the hospital walls, nurses must be educated for these opportunities and challenges. This will require recruitment from a pool of highly-qualified and diverse individuals, including the faculty that will educate them. In the 2013-2014 academic year, the Nursing Workforce Diversity program supported 16,997 aspiring students, and the institutions that received these grants partnered with over 1,000 clinical training sites, 54% of which were in medically underserved areas. The Nurse Faculty Loan programs supported 2,401 students in which 42% were from disadvantaged or minority backgrounds.

Federal funding must keep pace with inflation as educational costs rise for both the student and the institution. The success of Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs is crucial to supporting the supply and distribution of qualified nurses to meet our nation's healthcare needs, and an investment in their sustainability is vital.

We sincerely appreciate your consideration of our request as your Subcommittee faces difficult decisions in this fiscal climate. Support for Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs is a direct investment in the nursing workforce, patient well-being, and the sustainability of our nation's healthcare system.

Sincerely,



Lois Capps  
Member of Congress



Richard L. Hanna  
Member of Congress

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List of Signatories

Letter to Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies

RE: Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs

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