



July 12, 2018— The Nursing Community Coalition (NCC) applauds the members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee for taking a major step to ensure communities have increased access to nursing care by advancing the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2017 (H.R. 959) through a voice vote. H.R. 959 now awaits a vote on the House floor.

H.R. 959 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 2023. The legislation has gained strong bipartisan support since its introduction at the start of the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress. Ninety-nine members of the House of Representatives have cosponsored this legislation knowing that the development of a highly-skilled nursing workforce is essential to improving access, reducing costs, and increasing quality of care. The Title VIII programs bolster nursing education at all levels, grow the number of nurses in the workforce, and help educate the next generation of nursing faculty. At a time when the demand for healthcare is intensifying, particularly as it relates to significant concerns such as the opioid epidemic, the focus on developing a robust workforce is necessary to ensure both short- and long-term solutions.

The 51 members of the NCC that have supported this legislation thank the House Energy and Commerce Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR) and Ranking Member Frank Pallone (D-NJ) as well as the Subcommittee on Health Chairman Michael Burgess (R-TX) and Ranking Member Gene Green (D-TX) for their efforts to move H.R. 959 forward. The NCC has worked closely with the House Nursing Caucus co-chairs, Representatives David Joyce (R-OH) and Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI), as well as the vice co-chairs, Representatives Rodney Davis (R-IL) and Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR), to advance this important legislation. We commend the sponsor of H.R. 959, Representative David Joyce (R-OH), along with the original cosponsors, Representatives Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI), Doris Matsui (D-CA), Rodney Davis (R-IL), Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR), and Kathy Castor (D-FL), for their dedication to ensuring high-quality, cost-effective nursing care reaches every corner of the country.

The NCC is dedicated to supporting our Congressional champions to see this vital legislation is passed in the House of Representatives.

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The Nursing Community Coalition includes 60 national nursing organizations that are the cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the profession. Collectively, the coalition represents over one million 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.

*Promoting America's Health Through Nursing Care*

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