



Nursing Community Coalition Commends Congress for Investing in Our Nation's Health
Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 Increases Funding for Nursing Education and Research

March 22, 2018- The Nursing Community Coalition applauds increased investments to nursing education and research proposed in the Consolidated Appropriations Act which, if passed, would finalize federal funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018. This spending proposal takes great strides to invest in programs that drive the profession's growth in workforce and science. The bill proposes \$249 million for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs, a nearly 9% increase over FY 2017, and \$158 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR), a 5% increase over FY 2017.

The Title VIII programs provide a critical lifeline for the community— with particular emphasis on ensuring nurses are practicing in rural and underserved areas. The level provided by Congress in this package reflects a strategic investment in the health of our nation today and into the future. The additional \$20 million provided to Title VIII will launch new careers, enable those interested in educating the next generation to pursue faculty positions, and ensure the pipeline for the future is more diverse. This investment in the workforce is rightfully coupled with an increase to NINR. The research funded by NINR is aimed at reducing burdensome chronic illness, improving end of life care, and promoting patient-centered care across the life continuum. As a profession driven by evidence, the support of nursing research demonstrates a commitment to scientific opportunity to continually improve health over time.

The members of the Nursing Community Coalition thank the Senate and House Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee Chairs Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO) and Representative Tom Cole (R-OK), and Ranking Members Patty Murray (D-WA) and Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), along with the full Appropriations Committees for their interest in bolstering the profession and the health of our nation.

The Nursing Community Coalition includes 58 national nursing organizations that are the cross sections 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.