



August 24, 2018

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

Dear Senator Merkley,

On behalf of the Nursing Community Coalition, we would like to thank you for offering the amendment to increase funding for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs by \$17 million in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (LHHS-ED) and Defense spending package (HR. 6157). Your commitment and dedication to support healthcare through nursing education is deeply appreciated.

The members of the Nursing Community Coalition are the cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the profession and are committed to promoting efforts that advance the health of our nation. With over four million licensed Registered Nurses, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), and nursing students, the Coalition shares your drive and passion to continually improve care for patients, families, and communities. The Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs are instrumental in bolstering and sustaining the nation's nursing pipeline. These programs address all aspects of nursing workforce demand, including education, practice, recruitment, and retention. Most importantly, these programs increase access to care for the patients and communities that need it most by providing grants to nurses serving in rural and medically underserved areas.

Again, we commend your amendment to increase funding for these vital programs and we value your continued support of America's nurses. If the Nursing Community Coalition can be of any assistance to you please do not hesitate to contact the Coalition's Executive Director, Dr. Suzanne Miyamoto, at smiyamoto@aacnnursing.org or 202-463-6930.

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 Nurse Assessment Coordination
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American College of Nurse-Midwives

Promoting America's Health Through Nursing Care

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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 Veterans Affairs Nurse Anesthetists
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
Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research
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 Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers
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
Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society

CC:

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth

The Honorable Cory Booker

The Honorable Bob Menendez

The Honorable Tim Kaine

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen