



December 5, 2017

The Honorable Rodney Davis
1740 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Scott Peters
1122 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Davis and Peters,

On behalf of the 35 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community Coalition, we would like to thank you for introducing the Employer Participation in Student Loan Assistance Act (H.R. 795). The members of the Nursing Community Coalition are the cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the nursing profession and fully support the goal of this legislation to extend the tax exclusion for employer-provided educational assistance. With over four million licensed registered nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, and nursing students, the profession embodies the drive and passion to continually improve care for patients, families and communities. The coalition is committed to improving the health of our nation by supporting America's nurses and we believe H.R. 795 will help to achieve this end by supporting student loan relief.

Amending the Internal Revenue Code to allow employers to offer a tax-free benefit to put toward an employee's student loan repayment would lower their debt burden and allow employers to better retain qualified employees. This legislation is an effective way for employers to support their employees by providing additional financial incentives in the hiring process, which would help attract highly-educated professionals including nurses. Seven out of ten graduates leave school with loans, and this legislation not only provides an incentive to join the workforce after graduation, but also allows recent graduates to more fully participate in the economy without having to worry about debt.

Again, we commend the introduction of H.R. 795. If the Nursing Community Coalition can be of any assistance to you or your staff, please do not hesitate to contact the coalition's Executive Director, Dr. Suzanne Miyamoto, at smiyamoto@aacnnursing.org or 202-463-6930, ext. 247.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Ambulatory Care 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 Practitioners

American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Nephrology Nurses Association
American Nursing Informatics Association
American Organization of Nurse Executives

Promoting America's Health Through Nursing Care

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American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses
Association of Public Health Nurses
Association of Veterans Affairs Nurse Anesthetists
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Dermatology Nurses' Association
Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association
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 Council of State Boards of Nursing
National League for Nursing
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs
Organization for Associate Degree Nursing
Society of Pediatric Nurses