## Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

March 28, 2019

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

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

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

We respectfully request that you invest in the nation's health by providing \$266 million for the Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act, administered by HRSA) in the Fiscal Year 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

With more than four million providers, Registered Nurses (RNs), Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), and other nurses with graduate degrees comprise the largest sector of the healthcare workforce and are essential members of the health professions team. The RN and APRN pipelines rely on Title VIII program support to advance all aspects of the nursing workforce demand, including education, practice, recruitment, and retention. Title VIII programs bolster education at all levels, from entry-level preparation through graduate study. These programs support academic institutions and the nurse faculty who prepare today's nursing students to be tomorrow's expert clinicians.

It is critical that communities across the country have access to evidence-based, high-quality, and timely care. Title VIII programs advance this endeavor by fostering training and employment opportunities to serve those most in need. For example, in Academic Year 2016-2017, the Title VIII Advanced Education Nursing Traineeship program supported 2,166 students, of which 80 percent received training in primary care settings. The Title VIII Nurse Education, Practice, Quality, and Retention program supported 6,430 individuals for team-based care practices. Seventy-one percent of sites where these individuals received clinical training were located in medically-underserved areas. Additionally, 4,416 students were trained through the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Diversity program, 100 percent of whom were from underrepresented groups and/or from disadvantaged backgrounds. In addition, these grantees partnered with 571 training sites to provide 7,800 clinical training experiences.

We sincerely appreciate your past support and continued consideration of our request as your Subcommittee faces a challenging fiscal climate. A strong investment in the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs in FY 2020 is a strong investment in the nursing workforce, patient well-being, and the sustainability of our nation's healthcare system.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Bonamici

Member of Congress

Rodney Davis

Member of Congress

Tulsi Gabbard

Member of Congress

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Jennifer Wexton
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But January Aganna Pressley
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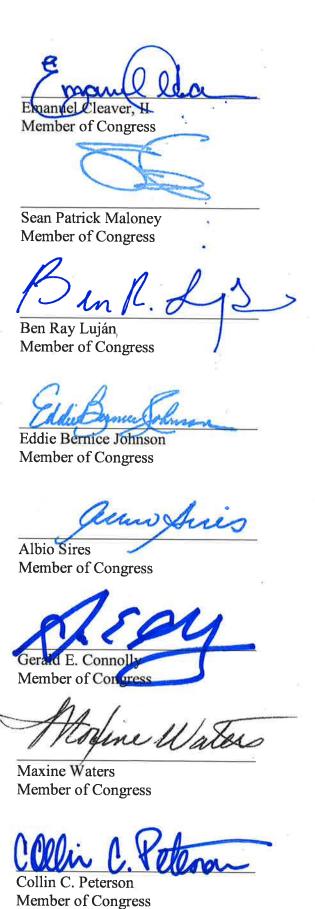
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Suzan DelBene Member of Congress
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