



July 9, 2019

The Honorable Judy Chu
United States House of Representatives
2423 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Chu:

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), we would like to thank you for introducing the Protecting Our Students by Terminating Graduate Rates that Add to Debt (POST GRAD) Act of 2019 (H.R. 3418). As the national voice for academic nursing, AACN represents 825 schools of nursing that educate 543,000 baccalaureate, graduate, and post-graduate students and employ over 45,000 faculty members. These institutions are responsible for educating our nation's registered nurses, advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), nurse faculty, and nurse researchers.

AACN commends the introduction of the POST GRAD Act of 2019 as it would ensure graduate students have additional access to affordable financial aid that is critical to attaining their degree. According to a recent AACN survey, 69% of nursing graduate students take out federal loans.¹ H.R. 3418 would allow these students to receive Federal Direct Subsidized Loans, which will help the next generation of APRNs. Through this legislation, we can continue to advance a diverse and robust nursing pipeline that serves all communities, including rural and underserved areas, across the nation.

Again, we thank you for introducing H.R. 3418, the POST GRAD Act of 2019. If AACN can be of any assistance to you or your staff as you advance this legislation, please do not hesitate to contact our Director of Government Affairs, Rachel Stevenson, at rstenvenson@aacnnursing.org, or 202-463-6930 ext. 271.

Sincerely,

Ann H. Cary, PhD, MPH, RN, FNAP, FAAN
AACN Board Chair

Deborah E. Trautman, PhD, RN, FAAN
President and Chief Executive Officer

¹ American Association of Colleges of Nursing. (2017). The Numbers Behind the Degree: Financing Graduate Nursing Education. Retrieved from: http://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/Policy/PDF/Debt_Report.pdf