



July 29, 2021

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 2021 (H.R. 4631). As the national voice for academic nursing, AACN represents nearly 840 schools of nursing that educate more than 580,000 baccalaureate, graduate, and post-graduate students and employ over 52,000 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 2021 as it would ensure graduate students have additional access to affordable financial aid that is critical to attaining their degree. According to AACN's most recent survey on financing post-baccalaureate education, 69% of nursing graduate students take out federal loans.<sup>1</sup> H.R. 4631 would allow these students to receive Federal Direct Subsidized Loans, which will help the next generation of faculty and APRNs. Through this legislation, we can continue to advance diverse and robust nursing pathways that serve all communities, including rural and underserved areas across the nation.

Again, we thank you for introducing H.R. 4631, the POST GRAD Act of 2021. 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](mailto:rstenvenson@aacnnursing.org), or 202-463-6930 ext. 271.

Sincerely,

Susan Bakewell-Sachs, PhD, RN, FAAN  
Board Chair

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

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<sup>1</sup> 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](http://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/Policy/PDF/Debt_Report.pdf)