



December 8, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader Schumer and Leader McConnell,

As the Senate considers the Build Back Better Act, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), the national voice of academic nursing, which represents nearly 840 member schools, more than 580,000 nursing students, and more than 52,000 nursing faculty, urges you to preserve and pass the following essential nursing provisions:

- **\$500 million for Schools of Nursing in Underserved Areas:** Similar to the Future Advancement of Academic Nursing (FAAN) Act, this investment would provide crucial resources to enroll and retain nursing students, recruit and retain diverse nursing faculty, expand clinical education opportunities, and modernize nursing education programs.
- **\$500 million for the Nurse Corps:** To support scholarships and loan repayment assistance for nurses at a health care facility with a critical shortage or nurse faculty at an accredited school of nursing.
- **\$170 million to Grow and Diversify the Nursing Workforce in Maternal and Perinatal Health.**

AACN member schools, faculty, and students continue to stand on the frontlines of this public health emergency, and we recognize that additional work must be done. We strongly urge the Senate to preserve these essential academic nursing provisions in the Build Back Better Act. We stand ready to offer our resources as you work on these vital issues. Should you have any questions, please contact Rachel Stevenson, AACN's Director of Government Affairs, at rstevenson@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

CC:

Senate Nursing Caucus Co-Chair, Senator Jeff Merkley
Senate Nursing Caucus Co-Chair, Senator Roger Wicker
All Members of the U.S. Senate