



September 15, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representative
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representative
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Leahy, Chair DeLauro, Vice Chairman Shelby, and Ranking Member Granger:

As we contend with new and ongoing public health challenges, we have seen nursing schools, faculty, and students on the frontlines providing care to local communities and preparing the next generation of nurse clinicians, leaders, and scientists. The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), appreciates the continued investments in nursing education, research, and practice, and urges Congress to support the following fiscal year (FY) 2023 funding requests as outlined in the House Appropriations Committee passed bill:

- **At least \$324.472 million for Nursing Workforce Development programs** (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.]),¹ and
- **At least \$208.571 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)** from within the overall National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding level.²

As the national voice for academic nursing, AACN represents over 850 schools of nursing at private and public universities, who educate more than 565,000 students and employ more than 52,000 faculty. Collectively, these institutions graduate registered nurses (RN), advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), educators, researchers, and frontline providers. Our member schools are committed to preparing a highly educated nursing workforce and strengthening the foundation of nursing science, not only as we confront existing health challenges, but as we provide tomorrow's equitable and innovative healthcare solutions.

A well-educated nursing workforce is essential, especially as we contend with ongoing public health emergencies, increasing cases of chronic illness, and an aging population. For over fifty years, Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs have consistently and continually built the supply and distribution of nurses by strengthening nursing education at all levels, from entry-level

¹ FY 2023 Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act. Page 49. Retrieved from: <https://docs.house.gov/meetings/AP/AP07/20220623/114920/BILLS-117--AP--LaborHHS.pdf> and Committee Report. Page 52. Retrieved from: <https://docs.house.gov/meetings/AP/AP00/20220630/114968/HMKP-117-AP00-20220630-SD003.PDF>

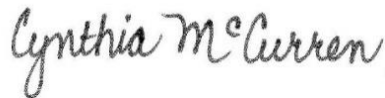
² FY 2023 Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act. Page 69. Retrieved from: <https://docs.house.gov/meetings/AP/AP07/20220623/114920/BILLS-117--AP--LaborHHS.pdf> and Committee Report. Page 123. Retrieved from: <https://docs.house.gov/meetings/AP/AP00/20220630/114968/HMKP-117-AP00-20220630-SD003.PDF>

preparation through graduate study. Through grants, scholarships, and loan repayment opportunities, these federal investments positively impact the profession's ability to serve America's patients across the country. We recognize that each of these programs, from Advanced Nursing Education and Nursing Workforce Diversity to the Nurse Faculty Loan Program and Nurse Corps, have a unique and vital mission to provide essential nursing care in all communities, including those in vulnerable and underserved areas. By prioritizing funding for Title VIII, Congress can help bolster diversity within the profession, support nursing students, ensure the supply of faculty needed to educate the future nursing workforce, and increase the number of nurses prepared to serve patients.

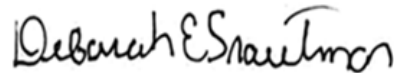
AACN also recognizes that scientific research and discovery is the foundation on which nursing practice is built and is essential to advancing evidence-based interventions, informing policy, addressing healthcare disparities, and protecting the health of the nation. As one of the 27 Institutes and Centers at NIH, the NINR plays a critical role in improving health care and leading cutting-edge innovations that impact how nurses are educated and practice.

From the classroom to the frontlines, nurses and nursing students are integral members of the healthcare team. To sustain the nursing workforce, AACN respectfully requests **at least \$324.472 million for Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs and \$208.571 million for NINR** as outlined in the House Appropriations Committee passed bill for FY 2023. If AACN can be of any assistance, please contact AACN's Director of Government Affairs, Rachel Stevenson, at (202) 463-6930, ext. 271 or rstevenson@aacnnursing.org.

Sincerely,



Cynthia McCurren, PhD, RN
Board Chair



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

CC:

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi
House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy
Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer
Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell