

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 19, 2013

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

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

Dear Chairman Kingston and Ranking Member DeLauro:

We respectfully request that you maintain a strong commitment to the Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII of the *Public Health Service Act*, administered by HRSA) in Fiscal Year 2014.

It is critical that the nation prepares now for the increasing demands on our healthcare system. A vital component to ensuring access to quality care, at present and in the future, is a robust workforce. With nurses comprising the largest segment of the healthcare workforce, the federal investment in nursing cannot falter.

Registered Nurses (RNs) and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) are expert clinicians who provide high-quality and cost-effective care in every care setting and community. Currently, RNs and APRNs are in demand in our nation's most medically-unreserved areas. By supporting the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs you will help to address this need as Title VIII's goal is to educate nurses who will practice in these communities. In the 2010-2011 academic year, the Advanced Education Nursing Traineeship Program graduated 7,744 nursing students, of which 7,548 (97%) went on to practice in underserved areas. Moreover, the Nursing Education Loan Repayment and Nursing Scholarship Programs provided funding to 1,304 nurses and students in exchange for service in a critical shortage facility.

While these are clear successes, attempts to increase the nursing workforce cannot be accomplished without an investing in nursing faculty to expand the slots for nurse training. According to American Association of Colleges of Nursing's *2012-2013 Enrollment and Graduations Survey*, nursing schools were forced to turn away 79,659 qualified applications from entry-level baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs in 2012, citing faculty vacancy as a top reason. The Title VIII Faculty Loan Program is critical to alleviate this demand.

We sincerely appreciate your consideration of our request as your Subcommittee faces difficult decisions in this fiscal climate. Support for Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs is a direct investment in the nursing workforce and the sustainability of our healthcare system as a whole.

Sincerely,

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PP Van

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Sup. S. L.

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Gerald Radde

Steve Chobot

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W. J. O.

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Capps

Hanna

Bordallo

Bishop

Blumenauer

Bonamici

Braley

Castor

Chabot

Cicilline

Clarke

Clay

Coble

Coffman

Cohen

Conyers

Courtney

Cummings

DeFazio

DeGette

Dingell

Doggett

Esty

Farr

Foster

Fudge

Garamendi

Gerlach

Green (Al)

Grijalva

Hastings

Heck (WA)

Himes

Holt

Johnson (TX)

Keating

Kilmer

Kind

Langevin

Lee (CA)

Lewis (GA)

Lipinski

Loebsack

Lujan

Lujan Grisham

Lynch

McCarthy (NY)

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Meng

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Moran (VA)

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Nolan

Pascrell

Payne

Perlmutter

Peters (MI)

Pingree

Pocan

Polis

Price (NC)

Rangel

Reichert

Roybal-Allard

Ruiz

Ruppersberger

Rush

Sánchez (Linda)

Sanchez (Loretta)

Schakowsky

Scott (GA-13)

Shea-Porter

Slaughter

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