



May 6, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, and Leader McCarthy,

As we celebrate National Nurses Week, May 6th – 12th, honoring our current and future nurses, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs),¹ nurse leaders, faculty, and scientists, 62 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC) express our strong support for the consideration and passage of the following legislative priorities that directly impact nursing education, workforce, and research.

Support at least \$530 Million for Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs in FY 2023: As the largest dedicated funding for our current and future nurses, existing Title VIII programs have a proven track record of helping bolster and sustain the nation’s diverse nursing pipeline by addressing all aspects of nursing workforce demand. With an aging workforce, aging population, and need to support our frontline providers, funding for Title VIII must meet levels reflecting the nursing population it serves.

Support at least \$210 Million for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) in FY 2023: As one of the 27 Institutes and Centers at the National Institutes of Health, NINR’s research is aimed at reducing the impact of social determinants of health and creating a more equitable health care system by promoting patient-centered care across the life continuum. The translational research by our nation’s nurse scientists is essential to developing new evidence-based practices to care for all patients.

Invest in Nursing Education Pathways- Cosponsor and Pass the Future Advancement of Academic Nursing (FAAN) Act (S.246/H.R.851): To ensure a robust and diverse nursing workforce, investing in the education pathways of our future RNs and APRNs is imperative. The FAAN Act would provide those vital resources to support the needs of nursing students, help retain and hire diverse faculty, modernize nursing education infrastructure, and create and expand clinical education opportunities. These efforts are essential and will help prepare nursing

¹ APRNs include certified nurse-midwives (CNMs), certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs), clinical nurse specialists (CNSs) and nurse practitioners (NPs).

students as they transition from the classroom to the frontlines in communities across the country.

Make Waivers that have Supported our Nation’s Health during this Public Health Emergency Permanent: The models of care implemented during these unprecedented times helps inform and improve healthcare throughout the nation. Therefore, we urge Congress to take legislative action to make permanent [various waivers](#) so nurses and APRNs can continue to provide high quality health care to patients in all communities, including in rural and underserved areas, now and into the future.

Ensure Parity within Federal Programs- Cosponsor and Pass the Nurse Corps Tax Parity Act (S.3505): Unlike other programs, such as the National Health Service Corps (NHSC), the Nurse Corps is subject to federal taxes. S.3505 would change this and aims for parity in the Nurse Corps programs.

Invest in Maternal Health- Cosponsor and Pass the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021 (H.R.959/S.346): From growing and diversifying the perinatal workforce and investing in social determinants of health to supporting mom’s mental health and our pregnant and postpartum veterans, the Momnibus Act provides a multipronged approach to addressing the maternal health needs in the United States.

Honor those Nurses who Served Our Nation During World War II- Cosponsor and Pass the United States Cadet Nurse Corps Service Recognition Act of 2021 (S.1220/H.R.2568): From 1943 to 1948, nearly 120,000 nurses answered the call by honorably caring for servicemen and women during World War II. These nurses helped shape the foundation of the profession and should be recognized for their invaluable service. The NCC commends the commitment and efforts to honor these heroic women. As we commemorate their legacy, it is imperative that this legislation is passed and the dedication of those who served in the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps is acknowledged.

Institute Safety Measures for the Current and Future Nursing Workforce: A culture of safety in care delivery settings, including violence prevention, is an indispensable aspect of a high-performing, high-quality health care system. Resources and investments are needed to build and sustain safe work environments and preventive practices. Funding should be directed toward concrete violence prevention efforts such as abatement of known risks (e.g., with respect to building exteriors and interiors) and establishment of robust ongoing prevention programs.

Support the Mental Health and Wellness of our Nursing Students, Nurses, and APRNs: Caring for the caretaker has become even more important as we witness the mental stress COVID-19 has had on our frontline workers. In fact, an American Nurses Foundation survey found that 51% of nurses continue to feel exhausted and 43% report feeling overwhelmed.² A breakdown of findings demonstrates that the mental health of early-career nurses, 34 and under, is impacted most, with 81% reporting they are exhausted, 71% saying they are overwhelmed, and 65% who report being anxious or unable to relax.³ Sadly, not much has changed in the past year, as the American Nurses Foundation Survey found that, “66% of nurses under 35 reported feeling

² American Nurses Foundation. Year One COVID-19 Impact Assessment Survey. Retrieved from: <https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/work-environment/health-safety/disaster-preparedness/coronavirus/what-you-need-to-know/year-one-covid-19-impact-assessment-survey/>

³Ibid

anxious and 47% depressed.”⁴ This extends to nursing students as well, as nearly a quarter of graduate nursing students reported elevated levels of stress, anxiety, and depression.⁵ Sadly, some have given all, as more than 3,600 health care workers lost their lives during the first year of COVID-19, 32% of whom were nurses.⁶ We appreciate the resources dedicated to health providers mental health in the American Rescue Plan Act and through other legislative efforts, but more must be done. We strongly recommend Congress includes mental health resources and funding, specifically for our nation’s nursing students, nurses, and APRNs, in any legislative package moving forward.

Invest in our Public Health Infrastructure: Since 2008, local public health departments have lost more than 56,000 public health jobs, which include nurses.⁷ This drastic shortage of public health professionals has been brought into stark reality during the COVID-19 pandemic. We must ensure nurses are at the table as we plan for tomorrow’s challenges and create a more equitable system. This includes ensuring nursing students, nurses, and APRNs are incorporated into all aspects of public health infrastructure needs and that our public health departments have at least one nurse or APRN on staff.

With over four million licensed Registered Nurses (RNs), APRNs, and nursing students, the profession embodies the drive and passion to ensure the health of patients, families, and our country continues to improve.⁸ We urge Congress to take legislative action to support the current and future nursing workforce and honor the essential work they provide to our healthcare system and to the public health of our nation. As these conversations continue, and if our organizations can be of any assistance or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the coalition’s Executive Director, Rachel Stevenson, at rstevenson@thenursingcommunity.org or at 202-463-6930, ext. 271.

Sincerely,
Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
Academy of Neonatal Nursing
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners
American Academy of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
American Association of Heart Failure Nurses
American Association of Neuroscience Nurses
American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American Association of Occupational Health Nurses

⁴ American Nurses Foundation. (2022). Pulse on the Nation’s Nurses Survey Series: COVID-19 Two-Year Impact Assessment Survey. Retrieved from:

<https://www.nursingworld.org/~492857/contentassets/872ebb13c63f44f6b11a1bd0c74907c9/covid-19-two-year-impact-assessment-written-report-final.pdf>

⁵ Nurse Educator (2021). A Survey of Mental Health in Graduate Nursing Students during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Retrieved from:

https://journals.lww.com/nurseeducatoronline/Abstract/2021/07000/A_Survey_of_Mental_Health_in_Graduate_Nursing.13.aspx

⁶ The Guardian and Kaiser Health News. Lost on the frontlines. Retrieved from:

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/ng-interactive/2020/aug/11/lost-on-the-frontline-covid-19-coronavirus-us-healthcare-workers-deaths-database>

⁷ National Association of County & City Health Officials. The Forces of Change in America’s Local Public Health System: 2018. Retrieved from: <https://www.naccho.org/uploads/downloadable-resources/2018-Forces-of-Change-Main-Report.pdf>

⁸ National Council of State Boards of Nursing. (2020). Active RN Licenses: A profile of nursing licensure in the U.S. as of January 13, 2020. Retrieved from: <https://www.ncsbn.org/6161.htm>.

American Association of Post-Acute Care Nursing
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Nephrology Nurses Association
American Nurses Association
American Nursing Informatics Association
American Organization for Nursing Leadership
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association, Inc.
American Public Health Association, Public Health Nursing Section
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Society for Pain Management Nursing
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
Association for Radiologic and Imaging Nursing
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses
Association of Public Health Nurses
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
Association of Veterans Affairs Nurse Anesthetists
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service
Dermatology Nurses' Association
Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association
Infusion Nurses Society
International Association of Forensic Nurses
International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Association of Hispanic Nurses
National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Neonatal Nurses
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of School Nurses
National Black Nurses Association
National Council of State Boards of Nursing
National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers
National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence
National League for Nursing
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs
Oncology Nursing Society
Organization for Associate Degree Nursing
Pediatric Endocrinology Nursing Society
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Society of Pediatric Nurses
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates
Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nurses Society

CC: All members of the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate