



**Testimony of the Nursing Community Regarding  
Fiscal Year 2014 Appropriations for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs, the  
National Institute of Nursing Research, and Nurse-Managed Health Clinics**

**U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and  
Related Agencies**

**Department of Health and Human Services**

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The Nursing Community is a forum comprised of 57 national professional nursing membership associations that builds consensus and advocates on a wide spectrum of healthcare and nursing issues surrounding practice, education, and research. These 57 organizations are committed to promoting America's health through the advancement of the nursing profession. Collectively, the Nursing Community represents nearly one million Registered Nurses (RNs), Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs-including certified nurse-midwives, nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, and certified registered nurse anesthetists), nurse executives, nursing students, nursing faculty, and nurse researchers. Together, our organizations work collaboratively to support a robust investment in the Nursing Workforce Development programs (authorized under Title VIII of the *Public Health Service Act* [42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.]), support research initiatives at the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR), and secure authorized funding for Nurse-Managed Health Clinics (Title III of the *Public Health Service Act*) so that our nation's population receives the highest-quality nursing services possible.

**Demand for Nurses Continues to Grow**

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' *Employment Projections for 2010-2020*, the expected number of practicing nurses will grow from 2.74 million in 2010 to 3.45 million in 2020, an increase of 712,000 or

26%. The projections further explain the need for 495,500 replacements in the nursing workforce, bringing the total number of job openings for nurses due to growth and replacements to 1.2 million by 2020.

Two primary factors contribute to this overwhelming projection. First, America's nursing workforce is aging. According to the *2008 National Sample Survey of Registered Nurses*, over one million of the nation's 2.6 million practicing RNs are over the age of 50. Within this population, more than 275,000 nurses are over the age of 60. As the economy continues to rebound, many of these nurses will seek retirement, leaving behind a significant deficit in the number of experienced nurses in the workforce. Secondly, America's Baby Boomer population is aging. It is estimated that over 80 million Baby Boomers reached age 65 last year. This population will require a vast influx of nursing services, particularly in areas of primary care and chronic illness management. A significant investment must be made in the education of new nurses to provide the nation with the nursing services it demands.

### **Addressing the Demand: Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs**

For nearly 50 years, the Nursing Workforce Development programs, authorized under Title VIII of the *Public Health Service Act*, have helped build the supply and distribution of qualified nurses to meet our nation's healthcare needs. The Title VIII programs bolster nursing education at all levels, from entry-level preparation through graduate study, and provide support for institutions that educate nurses for practice in rural and medically underserved communities. Today, the Title VIII programs are essential to ensure the demand for nursing care is met. Between FY 2005 and 2010 alone, the Title VIII programs supported over 400,000 nurses and nursing students as well as numerous academic nursing institutions, and healthcare facilities.

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing's (AACN) *Title VIII Student Recipient Survey* gathers information about Title VIII dollars and its impact on nursing students. The 2011-2012 survey, which

included responses from over 1,600 students, stated that the Title VIII programs played a critical role in funding their nursing education. The survey showed that 68% of the students receiving Title VIII funding are attending school full-time. By supporting full-time students, the Title VIII programs are helping to ensure that students enter the workforce without delay. The programs also address the current demand for primary care providers. Over one-half of respondents reported that their career goal is to become a nurse practitioner. Approximately 80% of nurse practitioners provide primary care services throughout the United States. Additionally, several respondents identified working in rural and underserved areas as future goals, with becoming a nurse faculty member, a nurse practitioner, or a nurse researcher as the top three nursing positions for their career aspirations.

The Title VIII programs also address the need for more nurse faculty. Data from AACN's 2012-2013 enrollment and graduations survey show that nursing schools were forced to turn away 79,659 qualified applications from entry-level baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs in 2012, and faculty vacancy was a primary reason. The Title VIII Nurse Faculty Loan Program aids in increasing nursing school enrollment capacity by supporting students pursuing graduate education, provided they serve as faculty for four years after graduation. *The Nursing Community respectfully requests \$XXX million for the Nursing Workforce Development programs authorized under Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act in FY 2013.*

### **National Institute of Nursing Research: Foundation for Evidence-Based Care**

As one of the 27 Institutes and Centers at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the NINR funds research that lays the groundwork for evidence-based nursing practice. Nurse-scientists at NINR examine ways to improve care models to deliver safe, high-quality, and cost-effective health services to the nation. Our country must look toward the prevention aspect of health care as the vehicle for saving our system from further financial burden, and the work of NINR embraces this endeavor through research related to

care management of patients during illness and recovery, reduction of risks for disease and disability, promotion of healthy lifestyles, enhancement of quality of life for those with chronic illness, and care for individuals at the end of life.

Moreover, NINR helps to provide needed faculty to support the education of future generations of nurses.

Training programs at NINR develop future nurse-researchers, many of whom also serve as faculty in our

nation's nursing school. *The Nursing Community respectfully requests \$XXX million for the NINR in*

*FY 2013. This level of funding is on par with the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research's \$XX*

*billion request for the total NIH budget in FY 2013.*

### **Nurse-Managed Health Clinics: Expanding Access to Care**

NMHCs are healthcare delivery sites managed by APRNs and are staffed by an interdisciplinary health provider team which may include physicians, social workers, public health nurses, and therapists. These clinics are often associated with a school, college, university, department of nursing, federally qualified health center, or independent nonprofit healthcare agency. NMHCs serve as critical access points to keep patients out of the emergency room, saving the healthcare system millions of dollars annually.

NMHCs provide care to patients in medically underserved regions of the country, including rural communities, Native American reservations, senior citizen centers, elementary schools, and urban housing developments. The populations within these communities are the most vulnerable to chronic illnesses that create heavy financial burden on patients and the healthcare system. NMHCs aim to reduce the prevalence of disease and create healthier communities by providing primary care services and educating patients on health promotion practices. Furthermore, NMHCs serve as clinical education training sites for nursing students and other health professionals, a crucial aspect of NMHCs given that a lack of training sites is commonly identified as a barrier to nursing school enrollment. *The Nursing Community respectfully*

*requests \$XX million for the Nurse-Managed Health Clinics authorized under Title III of the Public Health Service Act in FY 2013.*

Without a workforce of well-educated nurses providing evidence-based care to those who need it most, including our growing aging population, the healthcare system is not sustainable. The Nursing Community's request of \$XXX million for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs, \$XXX million for the National Institute of Nursing Research, and \$XX million for Nurse-Managed Health Clinics in FY 2013 will help ensure access to quality care provided by America's nursing workforce.

### **Members of the Nursing Community Submitting this Testimony**