



**Testimony of the Nursing Community Regarding
Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Appropriations for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development
Programs, the National Institute of Nursing Research, and Nurse-Managed Health Clinics**

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

**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Health Resources and Services Administration
National Institutes of Health**

May 22, 2014

The Nursing Community is a forum comprised of 60 national professional nursing associations that builds consensus and advocates on a wide spectrum of healthcare and nursing issues surrounding practice, education, and research. These 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, faculty, and researchers.

For FY 2015, our organizations respectfully request \$251 million for the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Nursing Workforce Development programs (authorized under Title VIII of the *Public Health Service Act* [42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.]), \$150 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) within the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and \$20 million in authorized funding for the Nurse-Managed Health Clinics (Title III of the *Public Health Service Act*). These investments will help ensure 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' (BLS) *Employment Projections for 2012-2022*, the expected number of practicing nurses will grow from 2.71 million in 2012 to 3.24 million in 2022, an increase of 526,800, or 19.4%. The number of job openings due to demand for registered nursing services and replacements in the workforce brings the total of RNs needed to 1.053 million by 2022. In addition, nurse practitioners are one of the fastest growing occupations according to the BLS projections, noting there will be a 33.7% increase in nurse practitioners between 2012-2022.

Two primary factors contribute to this overwhelming demand. First, America's nursing workforce is aging. A 2013 HRSA report, *The U.S. Nursing Workforce: Trends in Supply and Education*, indicates that over the next 10 to 15 years, the nearly one million RNs over age 50 (comprising approximately

one-third of the current workforce), will reach retirement age. Secondly, America's Baby Boomer population is aging. 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 50 years, the Nursing Workforce Development programs, authorized under Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act, have helped to 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 2012 alone, these programs supported over 450,000 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 their impact on nursing students. The 2013-2014 survey, which included responses from over 800 students, indicated that the Title VIII programs played a critical role in funding these students' nursing education. The survey showed that 78% 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 Title VIII programs also address the need for more nurse faculty. Data from AACN's 2013-2014 enrollment and graduations survey show that nursing schools were forced to turn away 78,089 qualified applications from entry-level baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs in 2013, 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 \$251 million for the Nursing Workforce Development programs in FY 2015.

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

As one of the 27 Institutes and Centers at the 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 schools. *The Nursing Community respectfully requests \$150 million for the NINR in FY 2015.*

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 burdens 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. This is crucial given that a lack of training sites is commonly identified as a barrier to nursing school enrollment. *The Nursing Community respectfully requests \$20 million for the Nurse-Managed Health Clinics authorized under Title III of the Public Health Service Act in FY 2015.*

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 \$251 million for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs, \$150 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research, and \$20 million for Nurse-Managed Health Clinics in FY 2015 will help ensure continued access to quality care provided by America's nursing workforce.

Members of the Nursing Community Submitting this Testimony

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
American Academy of Nursing
American Assembly for Men in 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 Anesthetists
American Association of Nurse Assessment Coordination
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Nurses Association
American Organization of Nurse Executives
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association
American Psychiatric Nurses Association

American Rehabilitation Nurses
American Society for Pain Management Nursing
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses
Association of Public Health Nurses
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service
Dermatology Nurses' Association
Developmental Disabilities Nurses Association
Emergency Nurses Association
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association
Infusion Nurses Society
International Society of Psychiatric Nursing
National American Arab Nurses Association
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Association of Hispanic Nurses
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of School Nurses
National Black Nurses Association
National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers
National Nursing Centers Consortium
National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs
Oncology Nursing Society
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates