



August XX, 2013

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Chairwoman
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-128 Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski and Chairman Harkin:

The XX undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community, a forum comprised of national professional nursing associations, like to express appreciation for your support of nursing education, research, and practice in the Fiscal Year 2014 appropriations bill. Collectively, the Nursing Community represents nearly one million registered nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, nurse executives, nursing students, nursing faculty, and nurse researchers.

The Nursing Community commends you for supporting a funding level of \$251 million for the Nursing Workforce Development programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act). These programs are the key to ensuring America's nurses are prepared to meet the challenges of today's healthcare innovations and tomorrow's aging population. Thousands of nurses and nursing students of all levels across the country are able to achieve their educational goals with this assistance. With the rising demand for nurses and the nursing faculty shortage preventing schools from maximizing student enrollment, the Nursing Workforce Development programs are becoming an ever more essential part of the solution. We also appreciate the dedicated funding for Nurse Managed Health Clinics (NMHCs) through the Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention program highlighted in report language. NMHCs provide vital access to care in the communities that are in the most need.

The Nursing Community would also like to thank you for supporting a funding level of \$145.2 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR), one of the 27 institutes and centers comprising the National Institutes of Health. Guided by its mission to improve the health of America's patients in a cost-effective manner, NINR supports research to prevent illness and enhance patient outcomes. Investing in nursing science is crucial to ensuring the continued excellence of nursing care and evidence-based practice.

On behalf of our nation's nurses, the Nursing Community would like to thank you for your continued support of nursing programs that advance the profession and the health of the public. If the Nursing Community can be of any assistance to you or your staff, please do not hesitate to contact its convener Suzanne Miyamoto at smiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu or 202-463-6930.

Sincerely,