



**Testimony of the Nursing Community**  
**Prepared for the U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies**

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

**National Institutes of Health**

**April 15, 2016**

*Submitted by Suzanne Miyamoto, Convener of the Nursing Community*

The Nursing Community is a coalition comprised of 62 national professional nursing associations that builds consensus and advocates on a wide spectrum of healthcare issues surrounding education, research, and practice. These organizations are committed to promoting America's health through the advancement of the nursing profession. Collectively, the Nursing Community represents over one million Registered Nurses (RNs), Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (including certified nurse-midwives (CNMs), nurse practitioners (NPs), clinical nurse specialists (CNSs), and certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs)), nurse executives, nursing students, faculty, researchers, and other nurses with advanced degrees. For Fiscal Year (FY) 2017, our organizations respectfully request **\$244 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.]) and **\$157 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)**, one of the Institutes and Centers within the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

**Title VIII Programs: Responding to the Needs of America's Patients through Nursing Care**

As integral members of the healthcare team, nurses collaborate with other professions and disciplines to improve the quality of America's healthcare system. The reach of their care is vast: they offer essential patient care in a variety of settings, including hospitals, long-term care facilities, community centers, state and local health departments, schools, workplaces, and patient homes. RNs comprise the largest group of health professionals with over three million licensed providers in the country.<sup>1</sup> A constant focus must be placed on education, recruitment, and retention to ensure a stable workforce, particularly in geographic regions that will continue to experience health provider shortages in the coming years. A significant investment must be made in the education of new nurses to provide the nation with the services it demands. For over 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

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<sup>1</sup> National Council of State Boards of Nursing. (2016). *Active RN Licenses: A profile of nursing licensure in the U.S. as of January 23, 2016*. Retrieved from: <https://www.ncsbn.org/6161.htm>.

nurses to meet our nation's healthcare needs. 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 ensuring the demand for nursing care is met. Title VIII programs target specific aspects of America's nursing workforce and patient populations that require federal support in order to ensure efficient and effective delivery of healthcare services.

For example, according to HRSA, there were over 61.2 million individuals living in primary care Health Professional Shortage Areas as of December 2015.<sup>2</sup> Title VIII programs provide graduate students and practicing nurses exposure to caring for underserved communities such as these, thus helping to bolster recruitment and retention in these areas. In academic year 2014-2015, the Title VIII Advanced Education Nursing Traineeships supported 3,008 students, of which 72% were trained in primary care,<sup>3</sup> and the Title VIII Nurse Anesthetist Traineeships supported 3,229 students, of which 64% were trained in Medically Underserved Areas.<sup>4</sup> Moreover, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' projection that employment of CRNAs, CNMs, and NPs is expected to grow 31% between 2012 and 2022.<sup>4</sup> These programs strengthen the supply of these clinicians.

Additionally, the Title VIII NURSE Corps Loan Repayment and Scholarship Programs assist students who agree to serve at least three years in facilities experiencing a critical shortage of providers.<sup>4</sup> Last year, 55% of the Loan Repayment Program recipients extended their service contracts to work in these facilities beyond the required three years.<sup>4</sup> Clearly, these programs are instrumental to connecting current and future providers to patient populations most in need.

America's aging population is another sector that will require additional providers. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, it is estimated that by year 2050, the number of people in the U.S. age 65 and older will reach 83.7 million (nearly one-quarter of the projected population).<sup>5</sup> Rising rates of chronic illness, coupled with an expanding population, will necessitate a cadre of nurses to care for these individuals. The Title VIII Comprehensive Geriatric Education program is designed to meet this call. In academic year 2014-2015 alone, there were 22,743 students and trainees supported through these grants. These individuals are the future caregivers to elderly Americans. Funding through this program was utilized to prepare faculty members, develop and disseminate geriatric curriculum, and provide traineeships for students pursuing advanced education nursing degrees in gero-psychiatric nursing, long-term care, and other nursing specialties centered on caring for elderly populations.

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<sup>2</sup> U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration. (2016). *Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics*. Retrieved from: [https://ersrs.hrsa.gov/ReportServer?/HGDW\\_Reports/BCD\\_HPSA/BCD\\_HPSA\\_SCR50\\_Qtr\\_Smry\\_HTML&rc:Toolbar=false](https://ersrs.hrsa.gov/ReportServer?/HGDW_Reports/BCD_HPSA/BCD_HPSA_SCR50_Qtr_Smry_HTML&rc:Toolbar=false).

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2016). *Health Resources and Services Administration Fiscal year 2017 Justification of Estimates for Appropriations Committees*. Retrieved from: <http://www.hrsa.gov/about/budget/budgetjustification2017.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2014). *Occupational Outlook Handbook*. Registered Nurses. Retrieved from: <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/registered-nurses.htm>.

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2014). *An Aging Nation: The Older Population in the United States*. Retrieved from: <https://www.census.gov/prod/2014pubs/p25-1140.pdf>.

**The Nursing Community respectfully requests \$244 million for the Nursing Workforce Development programs in FY 2017.**

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

The care that nurses provide must be rooted in evidence. As one of the 27 Institutes and Centers at the NIH, NINR funds research that lays the groundwork for evidence-based nursing practice. NINR examines 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. NINR addresses these challenges through its Strategic Plan, which includes the themes of: symptom science for patients with chronic illness and pain; wellness to prevent illness across conditions, settings, and the lifespan; patient self-management to improve quality of life; and end-of-life and palliative care science.<sup>6</sup>

In addition, NINR recognizes the need for improving global health and promotes research to reduce communicable diseases and improve public health and wellness such as maternal-newborn care. Moreover, NINR allots a generous portion of its budget towards training new nursing scientists, thus helping to sustain the longevity and success of nursing research. 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 \$157 million for the NINR in FY 2017.*** The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research requests at least \$34.5 billion for NIH in 2017, and the request level of \$157 million for NINR denotes the same percentage increase for NIH applied to NINR.

**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 Association of Occupational Health Nurses

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<sup>6</sup> National Institutes of Health. National Institute of Nursing Research. *Implementing NINR's Strategic Plan: Key Themes*. Retrieved from: [http://www.ninr.nih.gov/aboutninr/keythemes#.VRVhGWZ\\_SSU](http://www.ninr.nih.gov/aboutninr/keythemes#.VRVhGWZ_SSU).

American College of Nurse-Midwives  
American Nephrology Nurses' Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Organization of Nurse Executives  
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association  
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 Public Health Nurses  
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service  
Dermatology Nurses' Association  
Emergency Nurses Association  
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 Neonatal Nurse Practitioners  
National Association of Neonatal Nurses  
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Black Nurses Association  
National Council of State Boards of Nursing  
National Gerontological Nursing Association  
National League for Nursing  
National Nursing Centers 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  
Public Health Nursing Section, American Public Health Association  
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates  
The Quad Council of Public Health Nursing Organizations  
Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society