

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 2, 2014

The Honorable Jack Kingston  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education  
Appropriations Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education  
Appropriations Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kingston and Ranking Member DeLauro:

We respectfully request that you maintain a strong commitment to the Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act, administered by HRSA) in Fiscal Year 2015 as you work to complete your Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill.

It is critical that the nation prepares now for the current and impending strains on our healthcare system. A growing number of patients with multiple chronic conditions, baby boomers requiring additional health services, increased access to the healthcare system, and an aging healthcare workforce are converging to create a perfect storm. Weathering these challenges requires a significant investment in nursing.

Registered Nurses (RNs) and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses provide high-quality and cost-effective care in communities across the country. Yet, the nursing workforce is aging. According to a 2013 survey conducted by the *National Council of State Boards of Nursing and The Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers*, 55% of the RN workforce is age 50 or older. In addition, a 2013 HRSA report notes, over the next 10 to 15 years, the nearly 1 million RNs older than age 50—about one-third of the current workforce—will reach retirement age. Moreover, America's nursing faculty also is aging. According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), the average age of nursing faculty is 53.

The time is now to make a long-term investment in the health of the nation by supporting America's future nursing workforce. According to AACN's 2013-2014 survey on enrollments and graduations, nursing schools were forced to turn away 78,089 qualified applications from entry-level baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs in 2013, citing faculty vacancies and budget constraints among the top barriers to increasing enrollment capacity.

We sincerely appreciate your consideration of our request as your Subcommittee faces difficult decisions in this fiscal climate. Support for Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs is a direct investment in the nursing workforce, patient well-being, and the sustainability of our nation's healthcare system.

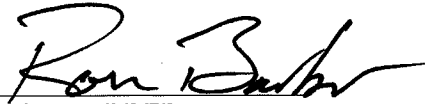
Sincerely,



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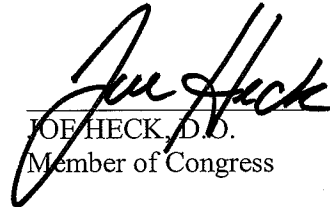
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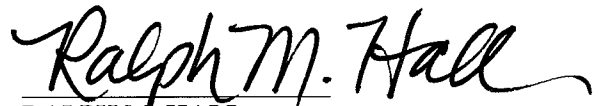
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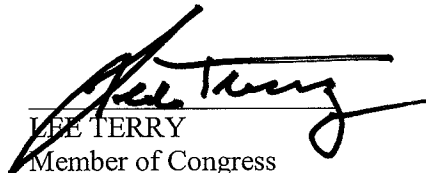
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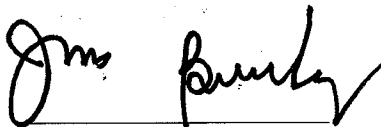
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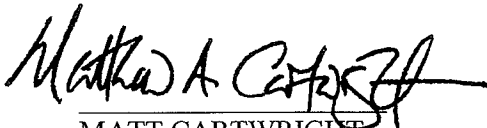
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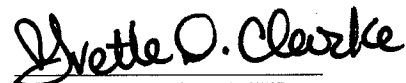
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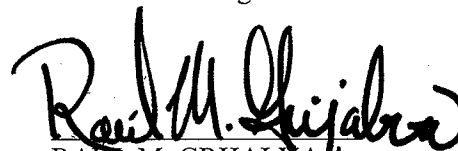
  
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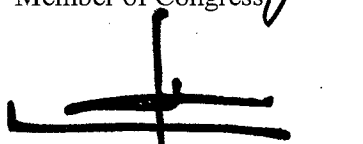
  
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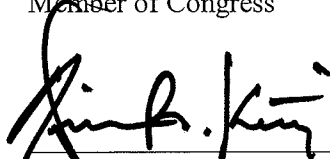
  
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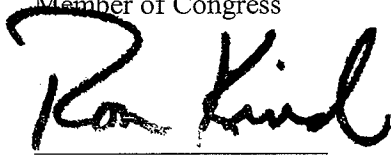
  
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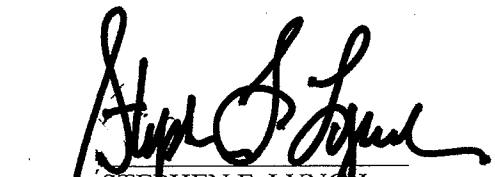
  
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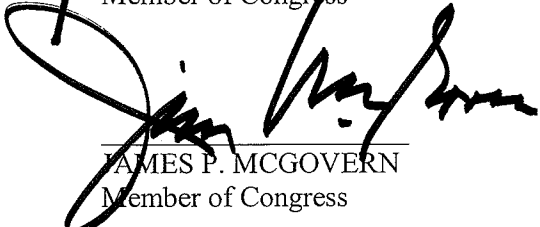
  
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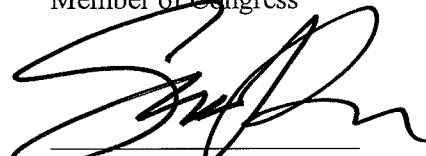
  
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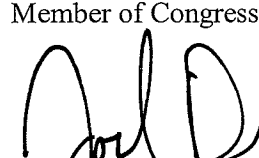
  
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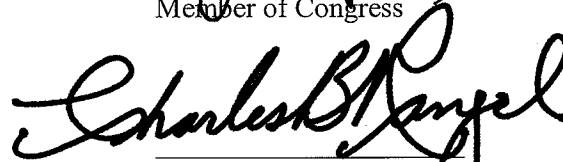
  
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