



August 13, 2015

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Merkley,

On behalf of the 43 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community coalition, we would like to thank you for introducing an amendment that proposed to restore level funding for the Nursing Workforce Development programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act), during the Full Senate Appropriations Committee mark-up of the Fiscal Year 2016 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education bill. Collectively, the Nursing Community represents over one million registered nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, nurse executives, nursing students, faculty, and researchers.

Our organizations deeply appreciate your efforts to sustain funding for these critical programs. For over fifty years, the Title VIII programs have bolstered nursing education at all levels, from entry-level preparation through graduate study, and have provided support for institutions and nurse faculty. As the largest sector of the healthcare workforce with over three million professionals, nurses work collaboratively in a variety of settings including hospitals, long-term care facilities, community centers, state and local health departments, schools, workplaces, and patient homes, providing care to patients across the lifespan. Your amendment was a critical attempt to ensure federal investments are dedicated to supporting a highly-educated and diverse nursing workforce, yielding a better tomorrow for our nation's patients and their health.

The Nursing Community would like to express our gratitude for your effort as well as your continued commitment to America's nurses and the federal programs that support them. If our organizations can be assistance to you or your staff, please do not hesitate to contact the Convener of the Nursing Community, Dr. Suzanne Miyamoto, at Smiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu or 202-463-6930, ext. 247.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
American Academy of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Nursing

American Association of Heart Failure Nurses
American Association of Neuroscience Nurses
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American Association of Occupational Health Nurses
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 of Community Health Nursing Educators
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Association of periOperative Registered 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 Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Association of Hispanic Nurses
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 Association of School Nurses
National Council of State Boards of Nursing
National League for Nursing
National Nursing Centers Consortium
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs
Oncology Nursing Society
Organization for Associate Degree Nursing
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates