

July 18, 2011

The Honorable Dennis Rehberg
Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, and Education
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, and Education
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Rehberg and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you begin your consideration of the FY 2012 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill, the undersigned members of the ANSR (Americans for Nursing Shortage Relief) Alliance urge you to support \$313 million for the Title VIII – Nursing Workforce Development programs at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as well as \$20 million for the Nurse Managed Health Clinics as authorized under Title III of the Public Health Service Act.

The Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs provide the main federal funding for nursing education, practice, and retention, aimed at maintaining an adequate supply of nurses to attain the nation's goal of ensuring access to affordable, high-quality health care, particularly for the country's vulnerable populations. However, today's shortage of appropriately prepared nurses – although eased somewhat in various locales during today's recession – is outpacing the current level of federal investments in Title VIII programs. The March 2008 study, *The Future of the Nursing Workforce in the United States: Data, Trends, and Implications*, calculates an adjusted projected demand of 500,000 full-time equivalent registered nurses by 2025.

The link between health care and our nation's economic security and global competitiveness is undeniable. Having a sufficient nursing workforce to meet the demands of a highly diverse and aging population is an essential component to reforming the health care system as well as improving the health status of the nation and reducing health care costs. We recognize the dire fiscal situation our country currently faces; however, we must still continue to make smart investments in programs like the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs so that the nation can meet our mounting health care needs.

The Alliance represents a diverse cross-section of health care and other related organizations, health care providers, and supporters of nursing issues that have united to address the national nursing

shortage. We stand ready to work with the 112th Congress to advance programs and policies that will ensure that our nation has a sufficient and adequately prepared nursing workforce to provide quality care to all well into the 21st century.

Sincerely yours,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
American Academy of Nursing
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists
American Association of Nurse Assessment Co-ordinators
American Association of Nurse Executives
American Association of Occupational Health Nurses
The American College of Nurse-Midwives
American College of Nurse Practitioners
American Organization of Nurse Executives
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Society for Pain Management Nursing
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
American Society of Plastic Surgical Nurses
Association for Radiologic & Imaging Nursing
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators
Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses
Association of State and Territorial Directors of Nursing
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric & Neonatal Nurses
Citizen Advocacy Center
Dermatology Nurses' Association
Developmental Disabilities Nurses Association
Emergency Nurses Association
Infusion Nurses Society
International Association of Forensic Nurses
International Nurses Society on Addictions
International Society of Nurses in Genetics, Inc.

Legislative Coalition of Virginia Nurses
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Association of Hispanic Nurses
National Association of Neonatal Nurses
National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Nurse Massage Therapists
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Association of Orthopaedic Nurses
National Association of Registered Nurse First Assistants
National Black Nurses Association
National Council of State Boards of Nursing
National Council of Women's Organizations
National Gerontological Nursing Association
National League for Nursing
National Nursing Centers Consortium
National Nursing Staff Development Organization
National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing
National Student Nurses' Association, Inc.
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs
Pediatric Endocrinology Nursing Society
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
RN First Assistants Policy & Advocacy Coalition
Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates, Inc.
Society of Pediatric Nurses
Society of Trauma Nurses
Women's Research & Education Institute
Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society