



May 6, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Thune
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
House Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Thune, Leader Schumer, and Leader Jeffries,

As we celebrate National Nurses Week, May 6 – 12, all 64 members of the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC) urge Congress to support our current and future nurses, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs),¹ nurse leaders, boards of nursing, faculty, and scientists. The NCC represents a cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within nursing. As the largest segment of the health care profession,² and as the most trusted profession,³ Congress' support of the nursing workforce is crucial to ensuring that patients have access to high quality and timely care. As recognized by the National Academies of Medicine, "what nursing brings to the future is a steadfast commitment to patient care, improved safety and quality, and better outcomes."⁴ Nurses are involved at every point of care, including on the frontlines and in every community, especially rural and underserved areas. Nurses work in community health centers, hospitals, long-term care facilities, local and state health departments, schools, workplaces, and patients' homes. Further, continued nurse-led research ensures that today's science leads to enhanced patient health outcomes.

We recognize that supporting health care requires continued investments in nursing. This is especially true as the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) projects that by 2033, demand for Registered Nurses (RNs) will increase 6%, representing 197,200 additional nurses.⁵ Further, the

¹ APRNs include certified nurse-midwives (CNMs), certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs), clinical nurse specialists (CNSs) and nurse practitioners (NPs).

² Smith, Sean and Blank, Andrew. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (June 2023) Healthcare Occupations: Characteristics of the Employed. Slide Two: Employment in the 25 largest healthcare occupations, 2022. Retrieved from: <https://www.bls.gov/spotlight/2023/healthcare-occupations-in-2022/>

³ Gallup. (January 2025) Americans' Ratings of U.S. Professions Stay Historically Low. Retrieved from: <https://news.gallup.com/poll/655106/americans-ratings-professions-stay-historically-low.aspx>

⁴ National Academies of Medicine. (2021) The Future of Nursing 2020-2030. Charting a Path to Achieve Health Equity. Retrieved from: <https://nap.nationalacademies.org/download/25982>

⁵ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2025). Occupational Outlook Handbook- Registered Nurses. Retrieved from: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/registered-nurses.htm>

demand for most APRNs is expected to grow by 40%.⁶ Given these realities, it is critically important that the nursing pipeline remains strong. However, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing's most recent annual survey found that, "the primary barriers to accepting all qualified students at nursing schools continue to be insufficient clinical placement sites, faculty, preceptors, and classroom space, as well as budget cuts."⁷

Innovative, proven, and impactful solutions are needed. As Congress looks to support our nation's nursing workforce, during National Nurses Week and beyond, the NCC expresses our strong support for the consideration and passage of the following legislative priorities that directly impact nursing education, workforce, and research, including:

- **Support at least \$530 million for Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs in Fiscal Year (FY) 2026:** As the largest dedicated federal funding for nurses, the Title VIII Programs are smart investments that bolster and sustain the nation's nursing pipeline by addressing all aspects of nursing workforce demand. From scholarship and loan repayments, to supporting APRNs and future faculty, Title VIII Programs offer a strategic and cost-effective approach to supporting our nursing workforce. With an aging population, and need to support our frontline providers, especially in rural and underserved settings, funding for Title VIII must meet levels reflecting the nursing population it serves.
- **Support our nurse scientists and researchers throughout the National Institutes of Health (NIH), including preserving the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) as an independent Institute within NIH, by supporting at least \$210 million for NINR in FY 2026:** As the only institute or center at NIH that directly supports research by nurse scientists, NINR promotes patient-centered care across the life continuum. NINR's scientists and researchers have made groundbreaking, lifesaving discoveries in the areas of prevention and care for low birthweight in infants,⁸ symptom management for those with Alzheimer's,⁹ and reducing pressure sores through the development of the Braden Scale.¹⁰ The translational research by our nation's nurses and scientists throughout NIH and at NINR is essential to developing new evidence-based practices to care for all patients. Nurse researchers and scientists bring a unique perspective as they continue their work at the forefront of disease prevention, patient care, and recovery.
- **Support nursing education and workforce priorities within the budget reconciliation process:** As you work towards meeting the targets put forth in the budget resolution, we urge you to keep in mind the unique nexus higher education and health care have in

⁶ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2025). Occupational Outlook Handbook- Nurse Anesthetists, Nurse Midwives, and Nurse Practitioners. Retrieved from: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/nurse-anesthetists-nurse-midwives-and-nurse-practitioners.htm>

⁷ American Association of Colleges of Nursing. (2024) New AACN Data Points to Enrollment Challenges Facing U.S. Schools of Nursing. Retrieved from: <https://www.aacnnursing.org/news-data/all-news/article/new-aacn-data-points-to-enrollment-challenges-facing-us-schools-of-nursing>

⁸ Cantelon, P. L. (2010, September). National Institute of Nursing Research, NINR, Bringing Science to Life. Page 87-88. Retrieved from: https://www.ninr.nih.gov/sites/default/files/NINR_History_Book_508.pdf

⁹ Ibid., 180-185

¹⁰ The National Institute of Nursing Research, Changing Practice, Changing Lives: 10 Landmark Nursing Research Studies. Retrieved from: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/GOVPUB-HE20-PURL-gpo29659/pdf/GOVPUB-HE20-PURL-gpo29659.pdf>

preparing the nursing workforce to care for all Americans. With discussions underway, we encourage Congress to include the following principles in any final budget reconciliation bill:

- **Providing Real-World Education and Clinical Experience by Precepting Tomorrow's (PRECEPT) Nurses Act (H.R.392/S.131):** Clinical preparation is a cornerstone of nursing education and requires clinical preceptors, most of whom are nurses, to help guide and develop the skills and competencies of our future nursing workforce. This bipartisan, bicameral bill is an innovative approach to supporting clinical education by providing a \$2000 tax credit to those who serve at least 200 hours as a clinical preceptor to nursing students, advanced practice nursing students, or newly hired licensed nurses, with specific emphasis on those in a Health Professional Shortage Area.
- **Improving Care and Access to Nurses (I CAN) Act (S.575/H.R.1317):** From primary and maternal care to acute and chronic care, APRNs provide high-quality care in all settings and in areas throughout the nation, including rural and underserved communities. As of 2021, 251,000 APRNs treated Medicare patients and over 40% of Medicare beneficiaries received care from an APRN.¹¹ The I CAN Act would remove outdated barriers in the Medicare and Medicaid programs that currently prevent APRNs from practicing to the full extent of their education and clinical training.
- **Support legislation that creates parity for nursing programs, including the Nurse Corps:** Unlike the National Health Service Corps (NHSC), the Nurse Corps is subject to federal taxes. By removing this barrier, the Nurse Corps programs, one of the invaluable resources under Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs, can continue to ensure nursing students and nurses enter practice where health care is needed the most.
- **Support nursing workforce safety measures, maternal health, veterans' health, mental health, and public health:** The NCC also supports several other policy priorities that impact nurses and patients across the nation. From maternal health, public and population health, veterans' health, and mental health to supporting the safety and well-being of our nursing workforce and protecting them from physical violence, successfully connecting sound policy with impactful implementation is essential to ensuring an efficient health delivery system for all. It is imperative that legislation focuses on access to the entire continuum of services provided by RNs and APRNs and removes unnecessary barriers to receiving that care.

With nearly five million licensed RNs, APRNs, and nursing students, the profession embodies the drive and passion to ensure the health of patients, families, and our country continues to improve.¹² We urge Congress, especially during National Nurses Week, to take legislative action to support the current and future nursing workforce, and honor the essential work nurses provide to our health care system and to the health of our nation. As these conversations continue, and if our organizations can be of any assistance or if you have any questions, please

¹¹ Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Data.CMS.gov. CMS Program Statistics-Medicare Providers. (2022) Retrieved from: <https://data.cms.gov/summary-statistics-on-use-and-payments/medicare-service-type-reports/cms-program-statistics-medicare-physician-non-physician-practitioner-supplier>

¹² National Council of State Boards of Nursing. (2024). Active RN Licenses: A profile of nursing licensure in the U.S. as of April 25, 2024. Retrieved from: <https://www.ncsbn.org/active-rn-licenses>

do not hesitate to contact the coalition's Executive Director, Rachel Minahan, at rstevenson@thenursingcommunity.org.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
Academy of Neonatal Nursing
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners
American Academy of 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 Anesthesiology
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American Association of Occupational Health Nurses
American Association of Post-Acute Care Nursing
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Nephrology Nurses Association
American Nurses Association
American Nursing Informatics Association
American Organization for Nursing Leadership
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association, Inc.
American Public Health Association, Public Health Nursing Section
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 periOperative Registered Nurses
Association of Public Health Nurses
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
Association of Veterans Affairs Nurse Anesthetists
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service
Dermatology Nurses' Association
Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
Emergency 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 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 Black Nurses Association
National Council of State Boards of Nursing
National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers
National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence
National League for Nursing
National Nurse-Led Care 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
Society of Pediatric Nurses
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates
Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nurses Society

CC: All members of the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate