



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

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

**National Institutes of Health (NIH)**

**March 8, 2017**

*Submitted by Suzanne Miyamoto, PhD, RN, FAAN, Convener of the Nursing Community*

The Nursing Community is a coalition comprised of 63 national nursing associations that are the cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the profession. These organizations are committed to promoting America's health and believe the healthcare delivery system should be one that promotes wellness, advances research through scientific discovery, and provides timely access to care. The Nursing Community represents the largest segment of the healthcare workforce with over four million licensed Registered Nurses (RNs), Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs),<sup>1</sup> and nursing students.<sup>2</sup> For Fiscal Year (FY) 2018, our organizations respectfully request **\$244 million for the HRSA Nursing Workforce Development programs** (authorized under Title VIII of the *Public Health Service Act* [42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.]) and **\$160 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)**, one of the 27 Institutes and Centers within the NIH.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> National Council of State Boards of Nursing. (2017). *Active RN Licenses: A profile of nursing licensure in the U.S. as of February 23, 2017*. Retrieved from: <https://www.ncsbn.org/6161.htm>.

<sup>2</sup> American Association of Colleges of Nursing. (2015). *U.S. Nursing Education, 2015*. Retrieved from <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/government-affairs/us-nursing-education.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research requests at least \$2 billion above the FY 2017 funding level for NIH, in addition to funds included in the 21st Century Cures Act. The request level of \$160 million for NINR denotes the same percentage increase for NIH applied to NINR.

## **Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs: Responding to Community Health Needs**

As integral members of the healthcare team, nurses collaborate and lead with other professionals to improve the quality of America's healthcare system. The reach of nursing care is vast, offering essential services in a variety of settings. As the need for providers to increase access and reduce costs continues to be a national focal point, investments in the nursing workforce are critical.

For over 50 years, the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs have helped build the supply and distribution of qualified 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.

According to HRSA, there were 65.9 million individuals living in designated primary care Health Professional Shortage Areas as of January 1, 2017.<sup>4</sup> These 6,626 shortage areas impact roughly 20 percent of our country's population. Title VIII programs provide students exposure and practicing nurses job opportunities to 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

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<sup>4</sup> U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration. (2017). *Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics*. Retrieved from: [https://ersrs.hrsa.gov/ReportServer?/HGDW\\_Reports/BCD\\_HPSA/BCD\\_HPSA\\_SCR50\\_Smry\\_HTML&rc:Toolbar=false](https://ersrs.hrsa.gov/ReportServer?/HGDW_Reports/BCD_HPSA/BCD_HPSA_SCR50_Smry_HTML&rc:Toolbar=false).

trained in primary care,<sup>5</sup> and the Title VIII Nurse Anesthetist Traineeships supported 3,229 students, of which 64% were trained in Medically Underserved Areas.<sup>3</sup>

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 nurses. In 2015, over half of the Loan Repayment Program recipients extended their service contracts to work in these facilities beyond the required three years, clearly showing the program's success in connecting current and future providers to patient populations in need.<sup>3</sup>

***The Nursing Community respectfully requests \$244 million for the Nursing Workforce Development programs in FY 2018.***

### **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. NINR's research examines a variety of topics that will help nurses and other health professionals make informed decisions about treatment. For example, NINR funded researchers recently published a study regarding a biomarker in blood that can help predict recovery times for concussions.<sup>6</sup> Another NINR-supported project

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<sup>5</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>6</sup> National Institutes of Health. (2017). *Biomarker in blood may help predict recovery time for sports concussions*. Retrieved from: <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/biomarker-blood-may-help-predict-recovery-time-sports-concussions>.

developed technology that could lower the hospital readmission rate of older adults.<sup>7</sup> These studies yield improved patient-outcomes and prevent costly services.

Additionally, our country must look toward prevention as the vehicle for saving lives and our system from further financial burden. NINR embraces this endeavor by funding research related to care management 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. Moreover, 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. To further advance these efforts, NINR allots a generous portion of its budget towards training new nursing scientists, thus helping to sustain the longevity and success of nursing research. ***The Nursing Community respectfully requests \$160 million for the NINR in FY 2018.*** The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research requests at least \$2 billion above the FY2017 funding level for NIH and the request level of \$160 million for NINR denotes the same percentage increase for NIH applied to NINR.

For questions, please contact Suzanne Miyamoto, Convener of the Nursing Community, at [smiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu](mailto:smiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu) or at 202-463-6930 ext. 247.

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<sup>7</sup> Bowles, Kathryn H, Patricia Dykes, and George Demiris. Research in Gerontological Nursing. (2015). *The Use of Health Information Technology to Improve Care and Outcomes for Older Adults*. Retrieved from <http://ldi.upenn.edu/use-health-information-technology-improve-care-and-outcomes-older-adults>.

## 54 Members of the Nursing Community Submitting this Testimony

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses  
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  
American College of Nurse-Midwives  
American Nephrology Nurses Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Nursing Informatics Association  
American Organization of Nurse Executives  
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association  
American Psychiatric Nurses Association  
American Public Health Association, Public Health Nursing Section  
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 American Arab Nurses Association  
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 Black Nurses Association  
National Council of State Boards of Nursing  
National Gerontological Nursing Association  
National League for Nursing  
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium  
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Organization for Associate Degree Nursing  
Society of Pediatric Nurses  
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates  
Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society