



May XX, 2014

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
United States Senate
313 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Merkley,

On behalf of the XX organizations representing the Nursing Community, we would like to thank you for circulating the Dear Colleague letter expressing support for the Nursing Workforce Development programs (Title VIII, *Public Health Service Act*) in Fiscal Year 2015. Collectively, the Nursing Community represents nearly one million Registered Nurses, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, nurse executives, and nursing students, faculty, and researchers. Our organizations collaborate to advance sound policy decisions that promote improvements to our nation's healthcare system.

As you know, the Title VIII programs bolster nursing education at all levels and provide support for nurses, nursing students, faculty, and institutions to create a more highly educated workforce. While we understand the challenging fiscal climate surrounding the current budget process, it is imperative that the nursing pipeline receives critical assistance through these programs as the demand for healthcare services continues to grow. Our organizations appreciate your commitment to ensuring that America's nurses are afforded the opportunity to advance their education, their careers, and above all provide high-quality care for patients across the country.

Again, we would like to express our extreme gratitude for your continued support for our profession and for being a long-standing nursing champion. If our organizations can be of 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,

XX