



November XX, 2013

The Honorable Patty Murray
Senate Budget Committee
United States Senate
624 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
House Budget Committee
United States House of Representatives
207 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Murray and Chairman Ryan,

As you continue to collaborate with your colleagues on the current budget negotiations, the XX undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community respectfully urge you to ensure that investments in nursing education and research programs are protected from further cuts in FY 2014 and in the future. The Nursing Community is a coalition comprised of national professional nursing associations that builds consensus and advocates on a wide spectrum of healthcare issues. Collectively, our organizations represent nearly one million registered nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, nurse executives, nursing students, faculty, and researchers.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, an additional 1.2 million registered nurses will be needed by the year 2020. As the national demand for these clinicians continues to expand, it is imperative that investments are made in future generations of practicing nurses and nurse faculty. Sequestration has limited the ability of the Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII, Public Health Service Act) to bolster the nursing pipeline. Through programmatic and direct student support, the Title VIII programs help prepare a nursing workforce that increases access to care in America's most underserved areas. For example, Title VIII supports Nurse Managed Health Clinics that provide primary care, health promotion, and disease prevention to individuals with limited access to care, regardless of their ability to pay. If sequestration is allowed to continue, the nursing profession faces severe constraints in its ability to meet the healthcare needs of our nation.

In addition, sequestration threatens the development of groundbreaking research. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is the beacon for discoveries that change the way care is delivered and improve health worldwide. As one of the 27 institutes comprising NIH, the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) focuses on improving disease prevention and wellness promotion, which are essential in the national effort to reduce healthcare expenditures. Further budget cuts would disrupt the critical work put forth by NIH and NINR, thus limiting innovative progress.

Our organizations recognize the difficult fiscal and political climates in which the Committee must work. However, funding cuts to nursing education and research would have a detrimental impact on America's nurses, the healthcare system, and ultimately our patients. We urge you to view our Nursing Community [sequestration factsheet](#) for further examples of how these across-the-board cuts would limit the number of nurses and nursing students supported through the Title VIII programs and stunt developments in healthcare research. If our organizations can be of assistance, or if you have any questions, please contact convener of the Nursing Community Dr. Suzanne Miyamoto at SMiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu or 202-463-6930, ext. 247.

Sincerely,

CC:

Sen. Ron Wyden
Sen. Bill Nelson
Sen. Debbie Stabenow
Sen. Bernie Sanders
Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse
Sen. Mark Warner
Sen. Jeff Merkley
Sen. Chris Coons
Sen. Tammy Baldwin
Sen. Tim Kaine
Sen. Angus King
Sen. Jeff Sessions
Sen. Charles Grassley
Sen. Mike Enzi
Sen. Mike Crapo
Sen. Lindsey Graham
Sen. Rob Portman
Sen. Pat Toomey
Sen. Ron Johnson
Sen. Kelly Ayotte
Sen. Roger Wicker
Rep. Tom Cole
Rep. Tom Price
Rep. Diane Black
Rep. James Clyburn
Rep. Chris Van Hollen
Rep. Nita Lowey

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