

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 10, 2011

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, Education  
Appropriations Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, Education  
Appropriations Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Shelby:

We respectfully request that the Nursing Workforce Development programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act) receive \$313 million in appropriations for FY 2012, the same as the President's request. These programs bolster nursing education at all levels, from entry-level preparation through graduate study. This funding level will enable the Subcommittee to support over 100,000 students, many academic nursing institutions, and numerous health care facilities across the country to help meet our nursing workforce needs.

Registered Nurses (RNs) and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) are key providers of primary care in our communities. As we work to improve the quality of health care delivered, the demand for primary care, coordination of care, and the efficient use of services also continues to grow. The ongoing shortage of nurses hinders our health care goals of increasing access, decreasing cost, and improving quality. Increasing our nation's investment in Title VIII will help achieve our goals for a reformed health system.

Nurses and nursing students across the country benefit from the investments your Subcommittee provides these programs. Between FY2006-FY2009, Title VIII programs supported 340,000 nurses and nursing students. By 2018, 581,000 additional nurses will be needed to meet our health care needs. Increasing the investment in Title VIII will bolster the pipeline of the nation's nursing workforce and support nurses who attain higher education levels. In 2010, U.S. nursing schools turned away 67,563 qualified applicants for baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs. During FY2010, the Health Resources and Services Administration was forced to turn away 92% of the applicants for the Nursing Scholarship Program. Investing in Title VIII will help reduce the nation's nursing shortage.

Your support for \$313 million in the FY 2012 appropriations cycle for Nursing Workforce Development programs will make a real difference in the lives of healthcare consumers, nursing students, nurses, and the dedicated faculty who are committed to educating the nursing workforce's next generation.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Mikulski  
United States Senator

William

Jack Reed

Jay Ruppel

Herb Kohl

Chuck Sch

Frank R. Lautenberg

Jeffrey A. Merkley

Barack

Tom Udall

Samuel X. Flaca

Jim Johnson

Albi Esterson

Patrick Leahy

Bob Casey, Jr.

Ron Wyden

Ouellet

Ben Sanders

Steve Ambrini

Bob