

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 16, 2016

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education  
Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education  
Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

We respectfully request that the Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act, administered by HRSA) receive \$244 million in Fiscal Year 2017 through the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill. An investment in our nursing workforce today is a commitment to America's health care now and into the future.

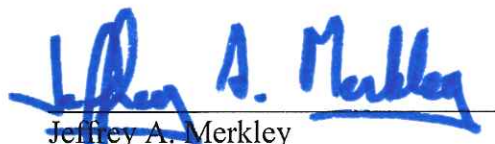
It is critical that the nation prepares for the current and impending strains on our healthcare system. A growing number of patients with multiple chronic conditions, baby boomers requiring additional health services, increased access to the healthcare system, and an aging healthcare workforce are converging simultaneously. Bolstering the nursing pipeline to ensure high-quality care is critical.

For over 50 years, the Title VIII programs have supported the nursing workforce by increasing the number of Registered Nurses and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, as well as the faculty who educate them. For example, in academic year 2014-2015, the Title VIII Advanced Nursing Education (ANE) Grants program supported 8,735 graduate nursing students. Moreover, ANE grantees partnered with 4,200 clinical training sites, of which 45% were located in medically-underserved areas and 46% were in primary care settings. At a time when the need for healthcare services—including primary care—continues to grow, it is vital that nurses are present in regions where they are most needed. Title VIII programs also aim to promote a diverse nursing workforce to reflect an increasingly diverse patient population. Last year, the Nursing Workforce Diversity program supported 13,225 nursing students and aspiring students to promote the recruitment of individuals from racial and ethnic minorities underrepresented in registered nursing.

Title VIII programs are designed to address specific needs within the nursing workforce and America's patient populations. Therefore, strong support for Title VIII reinforces our healthcare delivery system's ability to provide timely access to cost-effective care in all communities.

We sincerely appreciate your consideration of our request and understand the difficult decisions your Subcommittee will face in this fiscal climate. However, support for Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs is a direct investment in the nursing workforce, our nation's well-being, and the sustainability of our healthcare system as a whole.

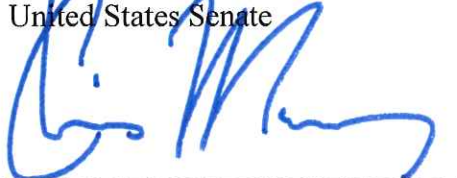
Sincerely,



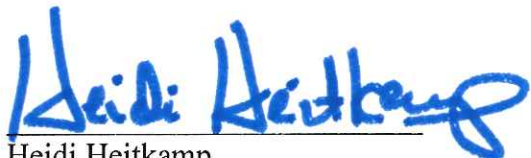
Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senate



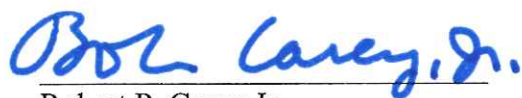
Sherrod Brown  
United States Senate



Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senate



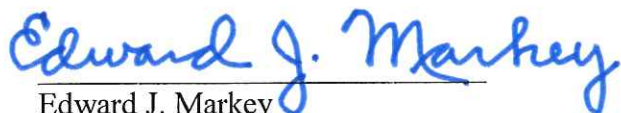
Heidi Heitkamp  
United States Senate



Robert P. Casey Jr.  
United States Senate



Bernard Sanders  
United States Senate



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senate



Tim Kaine  
United States Senate



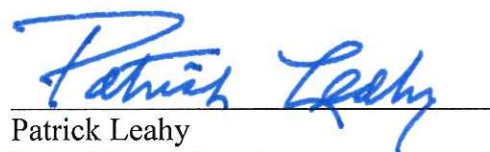
Brian Schatz  
United States Senate



Gary C. Peters  
United States Senate



Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senate



Patrick Leahy  
United States Senate



Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senate



Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senate



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senate



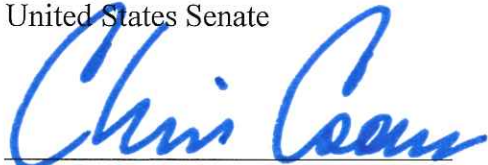
Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senate



Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senate



Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senate



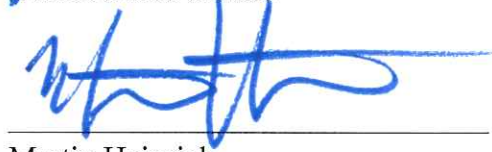
Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senate



Jon Tester  
United States Senate



Al Franken  
United States Senate



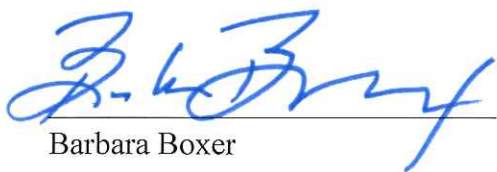
Martin Heinrich  
United States Senate



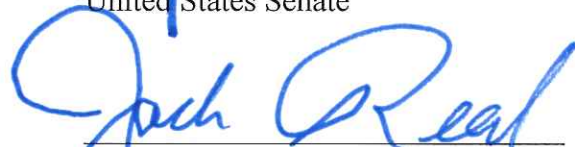
Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senate



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senate



Barbara Boxer  
United States Senate



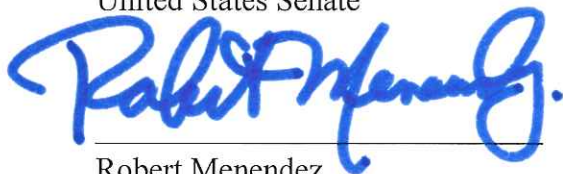
Jack Reed  
United States Senate



Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senate



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senate



Robert Menendez  
United States Senate

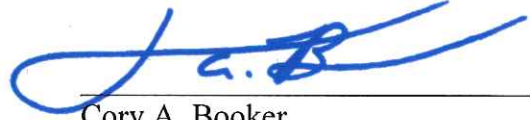


Ron Wyden  
United States Senate



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Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senate



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Cory A. Booker  
United States Senate