



November 14, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
House Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, and Leader Jeffries,

As we near the end of the 118th Congress and the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 appropriations deadline on December 20, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) appreciates Congress' enhanced support for a well-educated nursing workforce and recognition that federal resources for nursing schools, faculty, and students remain a major priority. As the national voice of academic nursing, AACN represents more than 875 schools of nursing at public and private universities, who educate more than 520,000 students and employ more than 57,000 faculty.¹ Collectively, these institutions graduate our nation's registered nurses (RNs), advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), educators, researchers, scientists, and providers. To support nursing education, research, and the workforce, AACN requests Congress to include the following appropriations and policy priorities in any moving vehicle or must pass legislation.

Increase Funding for Nursing Workforce Development and Research

AACN encourages the following funding levels and priorities, as outlined in the bipartisan Senate Appropriations Committee-passed Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies bill, to be included in any final FY 2025 spending package:

- **At least \$310.472 million for Nursing Workforce Development programs** (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.]),² and
- **At least \$197.693 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)** from within the overall National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding level³, and
- **Preserve the current structure of NIH and maintain NINR as an independent Institute** within the NIH framework.

Invest in Academic Nursing by Passing the Following Legislation

- **Future Advancement of Academic Nursing (FAAN) Act (S.3770/H.R.7266):** AACN recognizes the need for investment in nursing education pathways, including at the baccalaureate, graduate, and post-graduate levels, to support immediate infrastructure needs, which are essential to meeting future workforce demands. The FAAN Act would help

¹ American Association of Colleges of Nursing. (2024) About AACN. Retrieved from: <https://www.aacnnursing.org/AboutAACN>.

² S.4942, The Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2025. Retrieved from: https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/fy25_lhhs_bill_text6.pdf and the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Committee Report. Pages 47-49 and 431. Retrieved from: https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/fy25_lhhs_senate_report7.pdf.

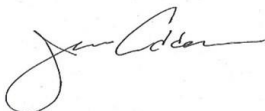
³ S.4942, The Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2025. Page 73. Retrieved from: https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/fy25_lhhs_bill_text6.pdf and the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Committee Report. Pages 123 and 437. Retrieved from: https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/fy25_lhhs_senate_report7.pdf.

accomplish this by providing resources to recruit and retain nursing students and faculty, promote academic-practice partnerships, invest in nursing education infrastructure, and support future nurse scientists and researchers.

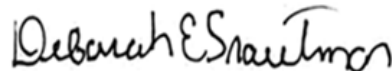
- **Educating Future Nurses Act (S.1586/H.R.3623):** This bill would create a National Graduate Nurse Education Program within Medicare. The program would provide funding for hospitals to partner with schools of nursing, community-based care settings, and other hospitals to help increase clinical education for APRNs.
- **Nurse Corps Tax Parity Act (S.1446/H.R.5080):** Unlike with other programs, such as the National Health Service Corps, Nurse Corps participants are subject to federal taxes. The bipartisan Nurse Corps Tax Parity Act would change this requirement, by removing the federal tax requirement, and ensure consistency across programs.
- **Nurse Faculty Shortage Reduction Act (S.2815/H.R.7002):** This bipartisan legislation creates a demonstration program that addresses the pay gap between clinical and faculty positions as a means of recruiting more nursing faculty.
- **Providing Real-World Education and Clinical Experience by Precepting Tomorrow's (PRECEPT) Nurses Act (S.1627):** This bipartisan bill would provide a \$2,000 tax credit for nurses who serve at least 200 hours as a clinical preceptor to nursing students, advanced practice nurse candidates, or newly hired licensed nurses in a Health Professional Shortage Area. This seven-year pilot program would offer an innovative solution to address the clinical education needs of the future nursing workforce.
- **Stop Nurse Shortages Act (H.R.8330):** With an increasing emphasis on preparing nurses at the baccalaureate and higher degree level, one innovative approach is accelerated degree programs. This bipartisan legislation builds on this by supporting the creation and expansion of accelerated nursing degree programs.
- **Support Faculty and Expand Access to Nursing School Act of 2023 (H.R.3263):** This bill would provide grants to help recruit and retain nursing faculty and clinical preceptors, particularly in areas that have the largest faculty shortage.
- **Expanding Access to Graduate Education Act (H.R.4337) and the Post GRAD Act (H.R.6077):** Bills that would help sustain and preserve student loan programs relied upon by nursing students.

We appreciate your continued recognition of how vital nursing education, the workforce, and research is to communities throughout the country, including rural and underserved areas. As this Congress draws to a close, including the above priorities in any moving vehicle or must pass legislation is crucial to our shared goal of improving our nation's health. Should you have any questions, please contact Rachel Minahan, AACN's Director of Government Affairs, at rminahan@aacnnursing.org, or 202-463-6930, ext. 271.

Sincerely,



Jean Giddens, PhD, RN, FAAN
Board Chair



Deborah E. Trautman, PhD, RN, FAAN
President and Chief Executive Officer

cc:

All members of the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate