

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 23, 2025

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Moore Capito and Ranking Member Baldwin:

We respectfully request that the Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act, administered by the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA)) receive \$530 million in Fiscal Year 2026 through the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill. It is imperative to remember that an investment in our nursing workforce today is a commitment to America's health care now and into the future.

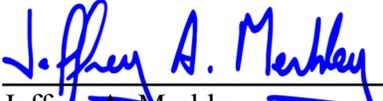
Now, more than ever, it is essential that communities across the nation have access to safe, high-quality nursing care. For over five decades, the Title VIII programs have helped to educate our nation's nursing workforce. The programs bolster nursing education at all levels, from entry-level preparation through graduate study, and support academic institutions and the nurse faculty who prepare today's nursing students to be tomorrow's expert clinicians.

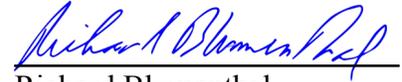
Title VIII Nursing Workforce and Development Programs connect patients with nursing care across a variety of settings, including community health centers, hospitals, and schools of nursing. According to HRSA's FY2025 Budget Justification, in Academic Year 2022-2023, the Title VIII Advanced Nurse Education Programs supported more than 8,000 advanced practice nurses. 72 percent of those nurses worked in underserved areas after graduation, including 751 who were hired by a grantee or partner organization. Additionally, 60 percent of new advanced practice registered nurses worked in medically underserved communities and/or rural areas one year after graduation.

Title VIII programs also aim to support the recruitment and retention of nurses through the Nurse Corps scholarship and loan repayment programs. These nurses help serve in rural communities, critical shortage facilities, and medically underserved areas. According to HRSA's FY2025 Budget Justification, as of September 30, 2023, more than three-quarters of the Nurse Corps providers were serving in community-based settings, and 20 percent were serving in rural 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 health care system.

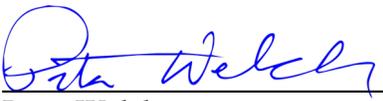
Sincerely,


Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

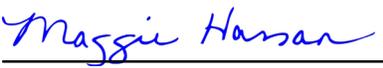

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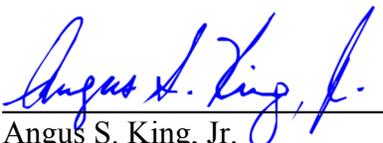

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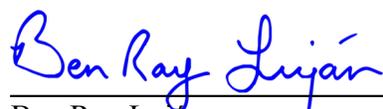

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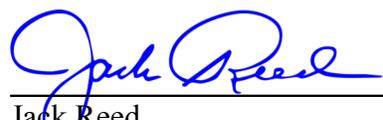
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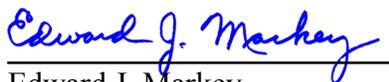
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