



## **ANNA Supports the Educating Future Nurses Act (HR. 3623 and S. 1586)**

The American Nephrology Nurses Association (ANNA) is a nonprofit organization with a membership of more than 6,000 registered nurses and other health care professionals at all levels of practice. ANNA members work in settings such as chronic kidney disease management, peritoneal dialysis, hemodialysis, continuous renal replacement therapy, transplantation, industry, and government and regulatory agencies.

According to the National Council of State Boards of Nursing over 100,000 nurses are leaving their positions, and 900,000 registered nurses intending to leave the field by 2027. The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts a rapid 40% surge in demand for advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) from 2021 to 2031. Despite the crucial role of APRNs and health care demands of the U.S. population, prospective APRNs have been unable to access necessary education and training to fill these critical roles due to high clinical training costs. Robust federal investment is urgently needed to sustain and retain our nation's APRNs, while expanding access to high-quality and patient-centered care across the nation.

### **The Educating Future Nurses Act**

The *Educating Future Nurses Act* was introduced on May 11, 2023, by U.S. Senators Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Bob Casey (D-PA), Maggie Hassan (D-NH), and on May 24, 2023, by Representatives Lauren Underwood (D-IL-14), Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR-01), and Steven Horsford (D-NV-04). The bill would help alleviate the national nursing shortage and increase the number of APRNs in the U.S. workforce by:

- Establishing a national graduate nursing education program, creating the first-ever federal funding stream that invests in graduate nursing education within Medicare.
- Bolstering collaborative partnerships between schools of nursing, community-based care settings, and eligible hospitals to ensure prospective APRNs have permanent access to vital clinical training opportunities.
- Expanding upon the successful Graduate Nursing Education demonstration created under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which led to a 54% increase in APRN enrollment and a 67% increase in graduation.

**Recommendation:** ANNA joins with a broad group of national stakeholders in urging Members of Congress to cosponsor the *Educating Future Nurses Act* (HR. 3623 and S. 1586).