ANNA Supports the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2017

The American Nephrology Nurses Association (ANNA) is a professional nursing organization of more than 9,000 registered nurses practicing in nephrology, transplantation, and related therapies. ANNA improves members' lives through education, advocacy, networking, and science.

The Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2017 (H.R. 959/S. 1109) reauthorizes these important programs through FY 2022. These programs represent a critical investment in the future of the nursing profession as it continues to provide our nation’s patients with high-quality healthcare services.

**Background on the Nursing Workforce Development Programs**

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there are currently 2.75 million registered nurses in the United States. A report issued by the Bureau of Health Professions predicts that by 2020, the percentage of unfilled nursing positions will increase by 29 percent.

Between Fiscal Years (FY) 2006 and 2013, the Nursing Workforce Development Programs supported the recruitment, education, and retention of more than 520,000 nurses and nursing students. These programs provide the largest source of federal funding to address the national nursing shortage. The following is an overview of Nursing Workforce Development programs:

- **Advanced Education Nursing Grants**: Provide funds to help schools of nursing, academic health centers, and other nonprofit entities improve the education and practice of nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, nurse anesthetists, nurse educators, nurse administrators, public health nurses, and clinical nurse specialists.

- **Workforce Diversity Grants**: Increase disadvantaged students’ access to nursing education through awards to schools of nursing, nurse-managed health centers, and academic health centers.

- **Nurse Education and Retention Grants**: Strengthen nursing education programs at schools of nursing, academic health centers, nurse-managed health centers, and other health care facilities that provide nursing education.

- **Nurse Faculty Loan Program**: Provide for partial loan forgiveness, up to 85 percent, for students who agree to teach full-time at an accredited school of nursing.

- **Comprehensive Geriatric Education Grants**: Help train individuals in providing geriatric care.

- **Nurse Loan Repayment and Scholarship Programs**: Provide for the cancellation of up to 85 percent of educational loans for nursing students who agree to practice in a designated nursing shortage area for at least three years.

**Recommendation**: ANNA urges Members of Congress to cosponsor the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2017 (H.R. 959/S. 1109).