



November 18, 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,

On behalf of the 63 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC), we urge you to support the below priorities and include them in any must pass legislation. The NCC is a cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the nursing profession representing Registered Nurses (RNs), Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs),¹ nurse leaders, boards of nursing, students, faculty, and researchers who are foundational to the health of the nation. As the largest segment of the health care profession,² nursing is involved at every point of care, including rural, urban, and underserved areas, is at the frontlines of public health challenges, and is leading the way to ensure today's science translates to tomorrow's cures. We recognize how vital our current and future nurses are to the fabric of America's health care system.

As we near the end of the 118th Congress, we strongly support passage of the following legislative priorities that directly impact nursing education, workforce, and research.

- **Future Advancement of Academic Nursing (FAAN) Act (S.3770/H.R.7266):** Provides vital resources to support the needs of nursing students, help retain and hire diverse faculty, modernize nursing education infrastructure, and create and expand clinical education opportunities.

Committees of Jurisdiction: House Energy and Commerce Committee, Senate Health Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee.

¹ APRNs include certified nurse-midwives (CNMs), certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs), clinical nurse specialists (CNSs) and nurse practitioners (NPs).

² Smith, Sean and Blank, Andrew. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (June 2023) Healthcare Occupations: Characteristics of the Employed. Slide Two: Employment in the 25 largest healthcare occupations, 2022. Retrieved from: <https://www.bls.gov/spotlight/2023/healthcare-occupations-in-2022/>

- **Nurse Faculty Shortage Reduction Act (S.2815/H.R.7002):** Provides grant funding to close the pay gap between faculty and clinical nurses.
Committees of Jurisdiction: House Energy and Commerce Committee, Senate Health Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee.
- **Nurse Corps Tax Parity Act of 2023 (S.1446/H.R.5080):** Unlike other programs, such as the National Health Service Corps (NHSC), the Nurse Corps is subject to federal taxes. S.1446/H.R.5080 would change this and creates parity among these vital federal programs.
Committees of Jurisdiction: House Ways and Means Committee, Senate Finance Committee.
- **Improving Care and Access to Nurses (I CAN) Act (S.2418/H.R.2713):** Removes outdated barriers in the Medicare and Medicaid programs that currently prevent APRNs from practicing to the full extent of their education and clinical training.
Committees of Jurisdiction: House Energy and Commerce and House Ways and Means Committees, Senate Finance Committee.
- **Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act (S.131/H.R.618):** Retires outdated barriers in the Federal Employee's Compensation Act (FECA) that limit the ability of NPs to diagnose and oversee the care and treatment of federal employees who are injured or become ill in the course of their employment.
Committees of Jurisdiction: House Education and the Workforce Committee, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.
- **National Nursing Workforce Center Act of 2023 (S.1150/H.R.2411):** Creates a pilot program to help establish or expand state-based nursing workforce centers and requires HRSA to establish a center focused on nursing.
Committees of Jurisdiction: House Energy and Commerce Committee, Senate Health Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee.
- **Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act (S.1150/H.R.3305):** From growing and diversifying the perinatal workforce and investing in social determinants of health to supporting moms' mental health and our pregnant and postpartum veterans, the Momnibus Act provides a multipronged approach to addressing maternal health in the United States.
Committees of Jurisdiction: House Energy and Commerce, Education and the Workforce, Veterans' Affairs, Natural Resources, and Judiciary Committees, Senate Health Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee.
- **Midwives for MOMS Act (S.1851/H.R.3768):** Supports the establishment or expansion of midwifery programs at institutions of higher education and nursing schools.
Committees of Jurisdiction: House Energy and Commerce Committee, Senate Health Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee.
- **United States Cadet Nurse Corps Service Recognition Act of 2023 (S.1633/H.R.3428):** Honors the nearly 120,000 nurses who answered the call by honorably caring for servicemen and women during World War II.
Committees of Jurisdiction: House Veterans' Affairs and Armed Services Committees, Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee.

In addition to the above legislative efforts, the NCC also supports the inclusion of the following priorities in any year-end package:

- Make permanent [various waivers](#) and expand telehealth waivers, so nurses and APRNs can continue to provide high quality health care to patients in all communities, now and into the future.
- Promote safety measures for the nursing workforce by providing resources to build and sustain safe work environments and preventive practices. Funding should be directed toward concrete violence prevention efforts such as abatement of known risks (e.g. with respect to building exteriors and interiors) and establishment of robust ongoing prevention programs.
- Include mental health resources, support for healthy working environments, and funding specifically for our nation’s nursing students, nurses, and APRNs.
- Ensure nurses are at the table as we plan for tomorrow’s public health needs by incorporating students, nurses, and APRNs into all aspects of public health infrastructure and that our public health departments have at least one nurse or APRN on staff.

With over four and half million licensed RNs, APRNs, and nursing students, the profession embodies the drive and passion to ensure the health of patients, families, and our country continues to improve.³ Supporting the current and future nursing workforce is essential, especially given their impact on the healthcare system and to the public health of our nation. Therefore, we urge you to take legislative action and pass these bills before the end of this Congress. If our organizations can be of any assistance or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the coalition’s Executive Director, Rachel Minahan, at rstevenson@thenursingcommunity.org.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
 Academy of Neonatal Nursing
 Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
 American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
 American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners
 American Academy of Nursing
 American Association of Colleges of Nursing
 American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
 American Association of Heart Failure Nurses
 American Association of Neuroscience Nurses
 American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology
 American Association of Nurse Practitioners
 American Association of Occupational Health Nurses
 American Association of Post-Acute Care Nursing
 American College of Nurse-Midwives
 American Nephrology Nurses Association
 American Nurses Association
 American Nursing Informatics Association
 American Organization for Nursing Leadership
 American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association, Inc.
 American Public Health Association, Public Health Nursing Section
 American Psychiatric Nurses Association
 American Society for Pain Management Nursing
 American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

³ National Council of State Boards of Nursing. (2024). Active RN Licenses: A profile of nursing licensure in the U.S. Retrieved from: <https://www.ncsbn.org/nursing-regulation/national-nursing-database/licensure-statistics/active-rn-licenses.page>

Association for Radiologic and Imaging Nursing
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses
Association of Public Health Nurses
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
Association of Veterans Affairs Nurse Anesthetists
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service
Dermatology Nurses' Association
Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association
Infusion Nurses Society
International Association of Forensic Nurses
International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Association of Hispanic Nurses
National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Neonatal Nurses
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of School Nurses
National Black Nurses Association
National Council of State Boards of Nursing
National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers
National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence
National League for Nursing
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs
Oncology Nursing Society
Organization for Associate Degree Nursing
Pediatric Endocrinology Nursing Society
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Society of Pediatric Nurses
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates
Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nurses Society

cc:

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