



## 2016 YEAR IN REVIEW

The Nursing Community (NC) is a coalition of 64 national nursing organizations committed to improving the health and health care of our nation by collaborating to support Registered Nurses (RNs) and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs). Collectively, the NC represents over one million RNs, APRNs, nurse researchers, nurse faculty, and nursing students. The following report summarizes the NC's 2016 engagement, accomplishments, and progress in more detail.

### ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

NC Activity	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Letters, Statements	17	29	18	20	10
Congressional Testimony	2	2	3	3	2
Congressional/Administration Meetings	3	1	1	14	25
Receptions/Events	2	2	2	1	2
Webinars	-	2	2	1	-
NC Member Organizations	57	59	61	62	64
Friends of the NC	2	3	3	3	3
Twitter Followers	-	-	92	204	319

### LETTERS AND STATEMENTS

#### 3 Appropriations Advocacy Initiatives

**March 3, 2016**– The NC sent a letter to Representatives Tom Cole (R-OK) and Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) of the House Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and Education as well as Senators Roy Blunt (R-MO) and Patty Murray (D-WA) of the Senate Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and Education urging their support of \$244 million for the Nursing Workforce Development programs in FY 2017.

*Signed by 53 NC Organizations*

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*Signed by 50 NC Organizations*

**October 26, 2016** – The NC sent a letter to Representatives Hal Rogers (R-KY), Tom Cole (R-OK), Nita Lowey (D-NY), and Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) of the House Committee on Appropriations as well as Senators Thad Cochran (R-MS), Roy Blunt (R-MO), Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), and Patty Murray (D-WA) of the Senate

Committee on Appropriations urging their support of our original FY2017 requests of \$244 million for the Nursing Workforce Development programs and \$157 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research.  
*Signed by 56 NC Organizations*

## **1 Letter to Support Legislation**

**July 12, 2016** – letter to Senators Jeff Merkely (D-OR) and Richard Burr (R-NC) in support of the Title XIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2016 to reauthorize the Health Resources and Services Administration’s Nursing Workforce Development programs through fiscal year 2021.

*Signed by 50 NC Organizations*

### **Outcome**

S.3245 was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and has 7 cosponsors.

## **2 Letters Regarding Veterans Health Administration Full Practice Proposal**

**March 8, 2016** - The NC sent a letter to Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR) to support the Veterans Health Care Staffing Improvement Act (S. 2279). The Veterans Health Care Staffing Improvement Act would recognize Advanced Practice Registered Nurses serving in the Veterans Health Administration as full practice providers.

*Signed by 46 NC Organizations*

**July 22, 2016** – The NC sent comments to Secretary McDonald of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in support of the VHA’s Proposed Rule to extend full practice authority to APRNs.

*Signed by 60 NC Organizations*

## **2 Thank You & Congratulatory Letters**

**May 19, 2016** – The NC sent a letter to Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX) and Senators Roger Wicker (R-MS) and Jeff Merkley (D-OR) thanking them for introducing Senate Resolution 467 *Supporting the goals and ideals of National Nurses Week, to be observed from May 6 through May 12, 2016.*

*Signed by 48 NC Organizations*

**June 28, 2016** – The NC sent a letter to RADM Captain Susan Orsega congratulating on her appointment as Nurse Chief Professional Officer at the United States Public Health Service.

*Signed by 63 NC Organizations*

## **1 Statement**

**May 9, 2016** – The NC sent a letter to all members of Congress to express our continued commitment to finding sound policy solutions that improve health and healthcare, especially during National Nurses Week.

*Signed by 62 NC Organizations*

## **1 Statement to the New Administration**

**December 13, 2016** – The Nursing Community sent a letter to Vice President-elect Mike Pence, Chair of the Presidential Transition Team, to inform him of the values and goals of the coalition.

*Signed by 60 NC Organizations*

## 2 CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONIES

On **April 15, 2016**, the NC submitted testimony to the House and Senate Labor, Health, Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, Appropriations Subcommittees. The testimonies respectfully requested \$244 million for the Health Resources and Services Administration's Nursing Workforce Development programs and \$157 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research in Fiscal Year 2017.

## EVENTS

On **December 7, 2016**, the Nursing Community hosted a reception to honor Representative Lois Capps. The reception was held to present the Congresswoman with the Lois Capps Scholarship Award, a \$10,000 scholarship that will be used to finance nurses attending the Nurses in Washington Internship (NIWI). The scholarship will be used to pay for two nurses to attend NIWI. The reception was attended by 40 members of the Nursing Community.

[Photos](#) of the reception are posted on the Nursing Community website, as well as the [letter](#) presented to the Congresswoman.

## BRIEFS

On **March 15, 2016**, the Nursing Community hosted a briefing in collaboration with the Senate Nursing Caucus Co-Chairs, Senators Jeff Merkley (D-OR) and Roger Wicker (R-MS). The briefing titled, *The Nursing Profession: What You Need to Know and Why It Matters* welcomed over fifty guests. The complete event summary and link to photos can be found on the [event page](#) of the Nursing Community website.

## NEW MEMBERS

The Nursing Community proudly extended its membership to include two new members, bringing the total membership to 64 organizations. The newest members of the Nursing Community are:

[Society of Pediatric Nurses](#)



[American Nursing Informatic Association](#)



# TWITTER

The Nursing Community's Twitter account was created as a communication effort to build relationships with the healthcare field, Congress, the media, and the public, and to share information. The NC's Twitter account allows the coalition to dialogue about pressing issues. The NC's use of Twitter reflects the coalition's agreed upon views and positions based on previous initiatives or topics relevant to issues supported. In the new year, the Communications Committee will be working to increase the coalitions social media involvement.



At the end of 2016, the NC Twitter account had 319 followers.

## Top Tweet:

Thank you Senate Nursing Caucus Co-chairs [@SenJeffMerkley](#) & [@SenatorWicker](#) for support of today's briefing [pic.twitter.com/6LQSNE7684](http://pic.twitter.com/6LQSNE7684).

***For more information and the latest news from the Nursing Community, visit our website: [www.thenursingcommunity.org](http://www.thenursingcommunity.org) and follow us on Twitter, [@RN\\_Community](#).***