

Association of Community Health Nursing Educators

Initiatives Supported in 2017

Letter to Members of 115th Congress

January 13, 2017

The Nursing Community coalition welcomes the opportunity to serve as a resource to new and returning Members of Congress. Please see the letter signed by all 64 national nursing organizations of the Nursing Community which outlines the coalition's core principles.

[Read the letter to Representatives here.](#)

[Read the letter to Senators here.](#)

Letter to VHA

January 13, 2017

The Nursing Community sent a letter to Secretary McDonald of the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs to urge for the inclusion of Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) in its full implementation of the final rule published by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) on December 14, 2016. Please see the letter signed by 52 national nursing organizations of the Nursing Community coalition.

[Read the letter to Secretary McDonald here.](#)

Statement of Support for House Title VIII Reauthorization Act

February 7, 2017

Representatives David Joyce (R-OH), Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR), Kathy Castor (D-FL), Rodney Davis (R-IL), Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI), Doris Matsui (D-CA), and Patrick Meehan (R-PA) introduced the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act. The Act is a crucial investment in the nursing profession and is vital for the sustainability of America's health. The NC responded with a statement of support.

[Read the statement here.](#)

Testimony to House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education and Related Agencies

March 8, 2017

Members of the Nursing Community signed on to testimony for the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies that outlines the coalition's funding requests for FY 2018. The NC requests \$244 million for the Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act) and \$160 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research, one of the 27 Institutes and Centers within NIH.

[Read the full testimony here.](#)

Letter to House LHHS-Ed Appropriations Subcommittee

March 27, 2017

The Nursing Community sent a letter to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies signed by 55 organizations, it outlined the funding requests levels of \$244 million for Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs and \$160 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research for FY 2018.

[Read the letter here.](#)

Letter to Reiterate FY 2017 Requests

April 10, 2017

As the end of the Continuing Resolution draws near, the Nursing Community sent a letter to members of the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education reiterating the coalition's FY2017 funding requests of \$244 million for the Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act) and \$157 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR).

[Read the full letter here.](#)

Letter to Senate LHHS-Ed Appropriations Subcommittee

April 21, 2017

The Nursing Community sent a letter to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies signed by 58 organizations, it outlined the funding requests levels of \$244 million for Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs and \$160 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research for FY 2018.

[Read the letter here.](#)

Statement on Nurses Week

May 8, 2017

The Nursing Community sent a statement to all Members of Congress and their dedicated staff to express the coalition's commitment to the nation's health as we celebrate National Nurses Week. Nurses Week recognizes the contributions of the largest segment of the healthcare workforce: registered nurses. The Nursing Community reinforces the importance of the profession to the nation's health and we look forward to working with Congress to achieve that end.

Read the [full letter here.](#)

Statement on President's FY2018 Budget

May 23, 2017

The Nursing Community issued a statement expressing its concern over the deep cuts to the Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act) and to the National Institute of Nursing Research outlined in the President's Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Proposal.

Read the full [statement here.](#)

Letter Thanking Senators for Title VIII Reauthorization

June 1, 2017

On May 11, 2017, Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR) introduced the Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2017 (S. 1109) along with cosponsors Senators Richard Burr (R-NC), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), and Susan Collins (R-ME). Fifty-seven organizations signed on to a letter in support of this bill.

Read the [letter here.](#)

Testimony to the Senate Appropriations LHHS-Ed Subcommittee

June 2, 2017

Members of the Nursing Community submitted testimony for the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies that outlines the coalition's funding requests for FY 2018. The NC requests \$244 million for the Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act) and \$160 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research, one of the 27 Institutes and Centers within NIH.

[Read the full testimony here.](#)

Letter Thanking Cosponsors of the Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act

June 20, 2017

Forty four organizations signed on to letters thanking Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Ben Cardin (D-MD) as well as Representatives Chris Collins (R-NY), Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), Ron Kind (D-WI), Pat Tiberi (R-OH), Gregg Harper (R-MS), Mike Kelly (R-PA), and Patrick Meehan (R-PA) for introducing the Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act of 2017 (H.R. 1825, S. 445). The Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act of 2017 would reduce barriers that impede access to quality care.

[Read the House letter here.](#)

[Read the Senate letter here.](#)

Statement to Senate on Health Reform

June 22, 2017

Fifty-three organizations signed on to a statement urging Senators to commit to America's health. The coalition believes our healthcare delivery system should be one that promotes wellness, advances innovation through scientific discovery, and provides timely access to care in order to support the patients, families, communities, and populations our members serve.

[Read the statement here.](#)

Comments to VA

November 1, 2017

The Nursing Community Coalition submitted comments to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs regarding the proposed rule published on October 2, 2017 that would increase access to quality health care for our nation's veterans by expanding telehealth services. The successful implementation of this proposed rule will ensure all providers in the Veteran's Health Administration are utilized to the full extent of their education and clinical training.

[Read the full comments here.](#)

Letter to Representatives Paul Tonko (D-NY) and Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM)

November 9, 2017

Forty Nursing Community Coalition organizations signed on to a letter thanking Representatives Paul Tonko (D-NY) and Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM) for introducing the Addiction Treatment Access Improvement Act of 2017 (H.R. 3692). This legislation seeks to broaden the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 823 (g)(2)(G)) to allow APRNs to use their clinical training and expertise to provide care to those suffering from opioid addictions.

[Read the full letter here.](#)

Statement Responding to the American Medical Association

November 29, 2017

The Nursing Community Coalition released a statement responding to the American Medical Association's recent call for action that has the potential to impede access to care by qualified providers. The Nursing Community Coalition firmly believes there must be a team-based approach to put patients first and improve access to care.

[Read the full statement here.](#)

Letter to Representatives Rodney Davis and Scott Peters as well as Senators Mark Warner, John Thune, and Angus King

December 5, 2017

The Nursing Community Coalition sent a letter to the sponsors of the Employer Participation in Student Loan Assistance Act (H.R. 795) and the Employer Participation in Repayment Act (S. 796) thanking them for introducing legislation that would enable employers to offer student loan repayments to their employees.

[Read the letter to Representatives Davis and Peters here.](#)

[Read the letter to Senators Warner, Thune, and King here.](#)

Steering Committee Letters Sent in 2017

Letter to Leadership on Health Reform

January 19, 2017

The Nursing Community pledges to work with leadership in the House and Senate as they draft legislation of healthcare reform. The NC sent a letter to Speaker Paul Ryan, Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer, and the Committees of Jurisdiction to reiterate the need for a healthcare delivery system that promotes wellness, advances research through scientific discovery, and provides timely access to care.

[Read the letter here.](#)

Letter to Leadership Outlining Health Priorities

January 27, 2017

The Nursing Community sent a letter to Speaker Paul Ryan, Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer, and the Committees of Jurisdiction outlining the NC's overarching healthcare reform priorities. The Nursing Community is prepared to work with Congress and provide expertise related to access, affordability, and quality.

[Read the letter here.](#)

Letter to New HHS Secretary Tom Price

February 7, 2017

As the largest coalition representing nursing constituencies, the Nursing Community writes to Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price committing to work with HHS to assess where change is needed and preserve critical advancements to improve our healthcare system.

[Read the letter here.](#)

Letter to Secretary of Veterans Affairs David Shulkin

March 6, 2017

The nursing workforce represents the largest segment of the healthcare workforce nationally and within the VA healthcare system. The Nursing Community coalition pledges to work with Secretary of Veterans Affairs David Shulkin to improve veterans' health through nursing care.

[Read the full letter here.](#)

Letter to CMS Administrator Seema Verma

March 17, 2017

As the largest coalition representing nursing constituencies, the Nursing Community writes to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Administrator Seema Verma pledging to work with CMS to ensure federal policies recognize RNs and APRNs as leaders and partners to increase affordability and quality for patients.

[Read the full letter here.](#)

Letter to HRSA Administrator George Sigounas

May 23, 2017

The Nursing Community sent a letter to the Health Resources and Services Administration's new Administrator George Sigounas pledging the coalition's continued commitment to work with HRSA to ensure its pipeline programs support provider education and training with the goal of ultimately increasing access to affordable, high-quality care.

[Read the letter here.](#)

Statement to House Appropriations Committee

July 18, 2017

The Nursing Community sent a letter to the House Appropriations Committee urging them to maintain essential funding for all Nursing Workforce Development programs in Fiscal Year 2018.

[Read the letter here.](#)

Letter to Senate Appropriations Committee

August 3, 2017

The Nursing Community sent a letter to the Senate Appropriations Committee urging them to maintain funding for each of the Nursing Workforce Development programs.

[Read the full letter here.](#)

Letters to Newly Confirmed Administration Officials

August 30, 2017

The Nursing Community sent a letter to newly confirmed Surgeon General Jerome Adams, Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Elinore McCance-Katz, and Assistant Secretary for Aging Lance Allen Robertson. The coalition pledges to work with them to promote America's health through nursing care.

Read the [Letter to Surgeon General Jerome Adams](#).

Read the [Letter to Assistant Secretary Elinore McCance-Katz](#).

Read the [Letter to Assistant Secretary Lance Allen Robertson](#).

Thank You Letter to Senate Appropriations Committee

September 26, 2017

The Nursing Community Coalition sent a letter to the Senate Appropriations Committee to thank them for providing \$234.472 million for the Health Resources and Services Administration's Nursing Workforce Development Programs as well as providing \$155.210 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research.

[Read the letter here.](#)

Thank You Letter to Representative Suzanne Bonamici

September 28, 2017

The Nursing Community Coalition sent a letter to Representative Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) thanking her for submitting an amendment and a statement for the record in support of the Nursing Workforce Development Programs during the floor debate on the Fiscal Year 2018 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill.

[Read the full letter here.](#)

Thank You Letter to House Energy and Commerce Committee

September 28, 2017

The Nursing Community Coalition sent a letter to the House Energy and Commerce Committee thanking them for hosting a hearing on September 14 titled "Supporting Tomorrow's Health Providers: Examining Workforce Programs Under the Public Health Service Act."

[Read the letter here.](#)

Letter to Acting HHS Secretary Eric Hargan

October 11, 2017

The Nursing Community Coalition sent a letter to Acting HHS Secretary Eric Hargan pledging to work with him in his new role and to provide a nursing lens as the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services continues to discuss national health priorities.

[Read the full letter here.](#)

Comments to HHS

October 27, 2017

The Nursing Community Coalition submitted comments to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on their Draft Strategic Plan for FY 2018 to FY 2022. The comments reflected the coalition's core principles and highlighted most critically the need to reduce regulatory barriers for nurses to practice to the full extent of their education, training, and certification.

[Read the full comments here.](#)

Letter to Captain Sophia Russell

December 4, 2017

The Nursing Community Coalition sent a letter to congratulate Captain Sophia Russell on her appointment as Director of the Division of Nursing and Public Health within the Health Resources and Services Administration. The coalition pledges to work with her to promote America's health through nursing care.

[Read the full letter here.](#)