

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 1, 2009

The Honorable David Obey  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, and Education  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Todd Tiaht  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, and Education  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Tiaht:

We respectfully request that the Nursing Workforce Development programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act) receive \$215 million in appropriations for FY 2010. At a time when our nation is facing an eleven year nursing shortage that is projected to continue for at least another decade, a significant investment must be made in the Title VIII programs to reverse this trend.

When thousands of Americans are unemployed, over 140,000 nursing positions remain vacant in acute care settings, home healthcare, nursing homes, health departments, community health centers, schools, and workplaces. Providing support for nursing education and recruitment is the key to filling these vacant positions and helping Americans begin well-paid and rewarding careers in healthcare. Moreover, plans to address the nursing shortage must not be shortsighted, as the U.S Bureau of Labor Statistic project that 587,000 new nursing positions will become available by 2016. Fortunately, the Title VIII programs are structured to address the educational, recruitment, and retention needs of the nursing workforce, yet additional funding is necessary to reverse the current and future shortages.

The Title VIII programs are a proven solution to nursing shortages when provided with adequate funding. These programs support the education of registered nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, nurse faculty, and nurse researchers. However, over the last three years, relatively flat funding for Title VIII has significantly decreased the purchasing power of the programs. In FY 2006, the programs supported 91,189 nurses and nursing students. In the following year, 71,729 nurses and nursing students were supported representing a 21% decline in the programs' purchasing power (In FY 2007 and 2008, the programs received \$149.68 million). In FY 2008, the number of grantees supported dropped by 28% despite the \$6.37 million increase in total appropriations and only supported 51,657 nurses and nursing students. Rising educational costs, inflation, and the cost to administer the programs has limited the programs' effectiveness.

Congress must invest more in the nursing workforce crisis because it is impacting the quality and safety of our healthcare system. The shortage is expected to place healthcare delivery in further jeopardy as the baby boomer population ages, medical technology advances, and the need for health care grows. Now is the time to invest in nursing. Your support for \$215 million in FY 2010 funding for Nursing Workforce Development programs will make a real difference in the lives of healthcare consumers, nurses, and the teachers committed to educating the nursing workforce's next generation.

Sincerely,

Luis Caputo

De Young

Alan E. Under

Eleanor H. Norton

David P. i

Vernon J. Ehrns

Gene Taylor

Robert Wash

Howard L. Berman

George Miller

Vic Snyder

Tammy Baldwin

Frank A. LaBriola

Edward J. Markey

Pat Stump

Danny K. Davis

Rick Boucher

Earl Blumenauer

Barnes Frank

Eloums

Harold Wefman

Charles Shaw

Donald Payne

Rush Holt

Dave LaBrack

Mary Jo Hilroy

Baby Betty

Sam Fan

Joe Sestak

Jim McDemott

Paul VanAllen

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Steph [unclear]

John Brown

Zell Loff

Rich Lamm

Jim Langevin

Debra Warr [unclear]

Jim [unclear]  
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Elijah E. Zimmerman

John Lewis

Pat Stack

Mike Slomgren

Doris Matsui

Joe Courtney

Ron Paul

May Bono Mack

Leoree Lence

Shirley

Michael Arcuri

Chris [unclear]

Elijah L. Engel

[unclear]

Lynn Woolsey

Gable Gifford

Archie

Iwen Smoore

Samuel L. Sewell

Jas Altmire

By J. J. 2/2/09

Quint

Ainda J. Fitch

Signatories to letter (136):

Abercrombie	Herseth Sandlin	Ortiz
Altmire	Higgins	Pallone
Arcuri	Hinchey	Pascrell
Baldwin	Hirono	Paul
Barrow	Hodes	Payne
Bartlett	Holden	Perlmutter
Berkley	Holt	Peters
Berman	Johnson, Eddie Bernice	Pingree
Bishop (NY)	Kagen	Platts
Blumenauer	Kildee	Pomeroy
Bono Mack	Kilroy	Price (NC)
Boswell	Kind	Rahall
Boucher	Klein	Rangel
Braley	Kucinich	Reichert
Capps	Lance	Reyes
Capuano	Langevin	Ross
Carnahan	Larsen	Sanchez, Linda
Carney	Lewis (GA)	Sarbanes
Castle	LoBiondo	Schakowsky
Cleaver	Loebsack	Schwartz
Cohen	Lofgren	Scott (VA)
Connolly	Lynch	Sestak
Costa	Maloney	Shea-Porter
Courtney	Markey (MA)	Smith (NJ)
Cummings	Marshall	Smith (WA)
Davis (IL)	Massa	Snyder
DeFazio	Matsui	Spratt
DeGette	McDermott	Stark
Delahunt	McGovern	Sutton
Dent	McHugh	Tauscher
Dingell	McIntyre	Taylor
Ehlers	McMahon	Thompson (CA)
Ellison	McMorris Rodgers	Titus
Engel	McNerney	Towns
Farr	Michaud	Van Hollen
Frank	Miller (NC)	Walz
Gallegly	Miller, George	Wasserman Schultz
Gerlach	Moore (KS)	Waters
Giffords	Moore (WI)	Waxman
Gonzalez	Murphy (CT)	Wexler
Gordon	Napolitano	Wilson (OH)
Green, Gene	Neal	Woolsey
Grijalva	Norton	Wu
Hall (NY)	Nye	Yarmuth
Hall (TX)	Oberstar	Young (AK)
Hare		