

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 28, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

Thank you for your bipartisan work in passing H.R. 748, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. We are especially grateful that the bill included the reauthorization of the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs (S.1399).

For over five decades, the Title VIII programs have been helping to educate and retain our America's nursing workforce. These programs bolster nursing education at all levels, from entry-level preparation through graduate study, and support academic institutions and the nurse faculty who prepare today's nursing students to be tomorrow's expert clinicians. Now, more than ever, it is imperative to invest in our nursing workforce. An investment in our nursing workforce today is a commitment to America's health now and into the future.

As you begin work on the next COVID-19 relief bill, we strongly urge you to include the following priorities in further legislative packages to address this public health crisis:

Invest in Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs. Title VIII programs connect patients with nursing care across a variety of settings, including community health centers, hospitals, and schools of nursing. **We therefore request not less than \$15 billion in supplemental funding to be allocated for all Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs, including at least \$5 billion specifically for the Nurse Corps Loan Repayment and Scholarship programs, which shall remain available until expended.** Title VIII programs include Advanced Nursing Education program; Nursing Workforce Diversity program; Nurse Education, Practice, Quality, and Retention program; Nurse Faculty Loan program; and Nurse Corps Loan Repayment and Scholarship programs. This supplemental funding will ensure the nursing workforce remains strong and able to meet the current demands brought by this pandemic, as well as future nursing education and workforce demands as well.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and we look forward to working with you as we consider legislation to respond to the current public health crisis.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jeffrey A. Merkley
Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

/s/ Richard J. Durbin
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

/s/ Kirsten Gillibrand
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

/s/ Tammy Baldwin
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

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/s/ Jacky Rosen
Jacky Rosen
United States Senator

/s/ Ron Wyden
Ron Wyden
United States Senator

/s/ Tim Kaine
Tim Kaine
United States Senator

/s/ Bernard Sanders
Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

/s/ Chris Van Hollen
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

/s/ Kamala D. Harris
Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator

/s/ Amy Klobuchar
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator