

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR
Pain Management

Nursing

P.O. Box 15473 ❖ Lenexa, Kansas 66285-5473 ❖ 913/895-4606 ❖ aspmn@goamp.com

June 19, 2008

Dear Member of Congress,

The American Society for Pain Management Nursing (ASPMN), whose mission is to advance and promote optimal nursing care for people affected by pain by promoting best nursing practice and is accomplished through education, standards, advocacy, and research, stands ready to work with lawmakers to advance programs and policy that will sustain and strengthen our nation's nursing workforce. To ensure that our nation has a sufficient and adequately prepared nursing workforce to provide quality care to all well into the 21st century. ASPMN urges Congress to:

- **Appropriate at least \$200 million in funding for Nursing Workforce Development Programs under Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in FY 2009.**
- **Restore the Advanced Education Nursing program (Sec. 811) and fund it at a level on par with the proposed FY 2009 increase for the other Title VIII programs.**

Nursing is one of the largest health care professions with an estimated 2.9 million licensed RNs in the United States. The demand for qualified full time nurses continually increases. Estimates regarding the national nursing shortage suggest that this gap will increase anywhere from 340,000 to 1,000,000 by 2020. This shortage presents an extremely serious challenge to health care access and quality patient care and only promises to worsen due to an insufficient supply of individuals matriculating in nursing schools, an aging existing workforce, and the inadequate availability of nursing faculty to educate and train the next generation of nurses. At the exact same time that the nursing shortage is expected to worsen, the baby boom generation is aging and the number of individuals with serious, life-threatening, and chronic conditions requiring nursing care will increase. Consequently, more must be done today by the government to help ensure an adequate nursing workforce for the patients of today and tomorrow.

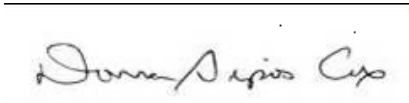
The current and deepening nurse faculty shortfall is a critical reason that the Advanced Education Nursing line item in the Title VIII programs must be fully funded. This program supported 13,877 graduate nursing students in FY 2006. The students that are supported by this funding are the pool of future faculty for the nursing profession. Whether supporting students in clinical education or as faculty in schools of nursing, it is essential that advanced education nursing funding be restored.

Enacted in 2002, the ***Nurse Reinvestment Act*** (P.L. 107-205) addressed new and expanded initiatives, including loan forgiveness, scholarships, career ladder opportunities, and public service announcements to advance nursing as a career. Despite the enactment of this critical measure, HRSA fails to have the resources necessary to meet the current and growing demands for our nation's nursing workforce. The President's proposed budget for FY 2009 reduces overall funding of Title VIII by \$46.1 million dollars, a 30% decrease compared to FY 2008. This cut is achieved by zeroing out funding for "Advanced Education Nursing." This funding cut, if implemented, will further diminish training and potentially jeopardizes the delivery of health care. Funding of all of the Title VIII programs make a difference.

This funding can be used to restore the Advanced Education Nursing program and fund a higher rate of Nurse Education Loan Repayment and Nursing Scholarship applications, as well as implement other essential endeavors to sustain and boost our nation's nursing workforce.

We thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna Sipos Cox".

Donna Sipos Cox, MSN, RN-BC, ONC, CCRC
ASPMN President