



Support FY 2024 Funding for Pediatric Advanced Practice Nurse Education and Workforce Development

As our country weighs the lessons learned from the coronavirus pandemic, the critical importance of federal investments in the nursing workforce and nursing education has been brought into sharp focus. Our health care system continues to struggle with a shortage of pediatric-focused nurse practitioners (NPs) and advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), as well as pediatric nursing program faculty and scientists. To respond to these needs, **the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) urges Congress to provide no less than \$302.47 million in Fiscal Year 2024 funding for nursing workforce development programs and no less than \$197.69 million for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR).**

Educating and Preparing the Nursing Workforce

As the largest dedicated funding for nursing, the Nursing Workforce Development programs authorized under Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.] and administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) are vitally important in sustaining and strengthening programs to provide the extensive education and clinical preparation required to meet current and future nursing workforce demands. Our nation is experiencing a pediatric clinical shortage, and despite a significant increase in the number of NPs, the pediatric nurse practitioner (PNP) workforce has not seen parallel growth. While children comprise nearly 25 percent of the U.S. population, pediatric primary and acute care NPs account for only 3.2 percent and 0.7 percent of the NP workforce, respectively. A 2021 study found that 75 percent of PNP education programs reported shortages of clinical training sites, which can lead to delays in graduation.

Robust funding for Title VIII programs is essential to ensure that patients in all parts of the country have access to high-quality pediatric nursing care in pediatric practices, children's hospitals, community health centers, school-based clinics, and children's homes. Each program under Title VIII is unique and plays an important role in supporting our nursing workforce. For example, in Academic Year 2021-2022, the Advanced Nursing Education programs, which help APRN students and nurses to practice on the frontlines and in rural and underserved areas throughout the country, supported more than 8,800 students, many of whom were trained in medically underserved areas and primary care settings. Together, Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs help to ensure that our nation will have the nursing workforce necessary and prepared to respond to public health threats and to ensure the health of all Americans.

The Senate Appropriations Committee approved legislation (S. 2624) in July that would provide \$302.47 million for Title VIII workforce development programs in Fiscal Year 2024. The need for federal support to address the nursing shortage is much greater than that, but NAPNAP believes Congress must provide no less than that amount in a final Fiscal Year 2024 spending agreement.

Sustaining Critical Scientific Research

For more than thirty years, the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) has funded scientific inquiries that have made important contributions to advancing the health of individuals, families, and communities. NINR's research focuses on reducing the impact of social determinants of health and creating a more equitable health care system, promoting patient-centered care across the life continuum. The translational research by our nation's nurses and scientists is essential to developing new evidence-based practices to care for patients in every demographic.

The Fiscal Year 2024 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill (S. 2624) approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee provides flat funding for NINR at its 2023 level of \$210 million. While that is insufficient to meet the Institute's needs, NAPNAP believe Congress must not provide less than that amount in a final Fiscal Year 2024 spending agreement.

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