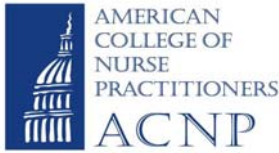




May 13, 2009

The Honorable Nita Lowey
United States House of Representatives
2329 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515



Dear Representative Lowey:

On behalf of the undersigned nursing organizations, thank you for introducing the *Nurse Education, Expansion, and Development (NEED) Act of 2009* (H.R. 2043). We commend you for your efforts to address the nation's nursing and nurse faculty shortages through the capitation grants outlined in the NEED Act.



Nursing schools turned away 49,948 qualified applications from baccalaureate and graduate programs during the 2008-2009 school year according to a report from the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. Some of the major reasons cited for not accepting eligible applicants were an insufficient number of faculty, clinical sites, classroom space, clinical preceptors, and budget constraints. The NEED Act would provide versatile capitation grants allowing schools of nursing to address these issues by recruiting and retaining faculty, acquiring necessary equipment, enhancing audiovisual and clinical laboratories, expanding infrastructures, and recruiting students.



Capitation grants have had a positive effect on stabilizing nursing shortages in the past. The NEED Act, if enacted, will ensure that schools are adequately equipped to educate the nurses required to meet current and future workforce demands. Moreover, this legislation would improve the quality and safety our nation's healthcare delivery system by increasing the supply of highly educated nurses who deliver vital healthcare services.



We applaud your continued dedication to solving the nursing and nurse faculty shortages. On behalf of our memberships and the entire nursing profession, we commend you and your staff for your outstanding efforts in this regard.



Sincerely,



American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American College of Nurse Practitioners
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
American Organization of Nurse Executives
Association of State & Territorial Directors of Nursing
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric & Neonatal Nurses
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners
National Student Nurses' Association
Visiting Nurse Associations of America

