

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 29, 2003

## SUPPORT THE MIKULSKI/COLLINS NURSING AMENDMENT

Dear Colleague:

We will be offering an amendment to the FY 2004 Senate Labor/HHS Appropriations bill to help ease the nursing shortage by recruiting and retaining more nurses. Our amendment would increase funding for the Nurse Reinvestment Act and other nursing workforce development (Title VIII) programs by \$63 million. When added to the funding in the underlying bill, our amendment would provide \$175 million for these vital programs. Our amendment will also help keep the promise that Congress made by passing the Nurse Reinvestment Act last year.

Our amendment would fund a variety of programs to recruit and retain nurses, including scholarships and loan repayments for nurses who work in facilities with a critical shortage of nurses, as well as financial assistance to pursue a nursing education at all levels. It would fund training to enter and advance in the nursing profession, programs to increase the diversity of the nursing workforce, and nurse retention programs to help keep nurses in the profession. Our amendment would also fund training to provide geriatric care to the elderly, a need that will only grow as our population ages. Finally, our amendment would fund the cancellation of education loans for nurses who teach at schools of nursing so that nursing programs do not have to turn away students in the midst of a nursing shortage. Congress established a number of these programs last year with the strong bipartisan passage of the Nurse Reinvestment Act. While Congress provided a down payment to start these programs in 2003, an additional investment is needed to help alleviate the severe nursing shortage in this country.

Our amendment is strongly supported by the nursing and health care provider communities. In addition, we have attached a list of almost 100 organizations that support funding of \$175 million for the Nurse Reinvestment Act and other nursing workforce development (Title VIII) programs and a chart that shows the projected nursing shortage by state in 2005. If you have any questions or wish to cosponsor our amendment, have your staff contact Rhonda Richards with Sen. Mikulski at 4-7962 or Priscilla Hanley with Sen. Collins at 4-9223. We look forward to your support to pass this amendment to help ensure that there are enough nurses to provide care to patients in all our states.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Mikulski  
United States Senator



Susan Collins  
United States Senator

Supporters of \$175 million for the Nurse Reinvestment Act and Nursing Workforce Development (Title VIII) Programs

AARP

Alliance for Lung Cancer Advocacy, Support, and Education  
Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses  
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing  
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners  
American Association for Cancer Research  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association of Community Colleges  
American Association of Critical Care Nurses  
American Association of Occupational Health Nurses, Inc.  
American College of Nurse-Midwives  
American College of Nurse Practitioners  
American College of Radiology  
American Foundation for Urologic Disease  
American Health Care Association  
American Holistic Nurses Association  
American Hospital Association  
American Nephrology Nurses Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Organization of Nurse Executives  
American Psychiatric Nurses Association  
American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology  
American Society of Clinical Oncology  
American Society of Hematology  
American Society of Perianesthesia Nurses  
American Society of Plastic Surgical Nurses  
Association of Community Cancer Centers  
Association of Oncology Social Work  
Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
Association of Pediatric Oncology Nurses  
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses  
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses  
Association of State and Territorial Directors of Nursing  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
Cancer Care, Inc.  
Cancer Research and Prevention Foundation  
Cancer Treatment Research Foundation  
Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Foundation  
Catholic Health Association of the United States  
Children's Cause  
Colon Cancer Alliance  
Colorectal Cancer Network

Colleagues in Caring: Regional Collaboratives for Nursing Workforce Development  
Community Oncology Alliance  
Dermatology Nurses' Association  
Developmental Disabilities Nurses Association  
Emergency Nurses Association  
EyesOnThePrize.org: Support And Information For Living With Gynecologic Cancer  
Federation of American Hospitals  
Gentiva Health Services  
Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America  
Intercultural Cancer Council Caucus  
International Foundation for Anticancer Drug Discovery  
International Myeloma Foundation  
Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations  
Kidney Cancer Association  
Lymphoma Research Foundation  
Marti Nelson Cancer Foundation  
Men's Health Network  
National Alaska Native/American Indian Nurses Association  
National Alliance of Breast Cancer Organizations  
National Association of School Nurses  
National Association of Nurse Massage Therapists  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Black Nurses Association, Inc.  
National Center for Assisted Living  
National Childhood Cancer Foundation  
National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship  
National Conference on Gerontological Nurse Practitioners  
National Council of State Boards of Nursing  
National Nursing Centers Consortium  
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties  
National Patient Advocate Foundation  
National Prostate Cancer Coalition  
National Student Nurses Association  
NCCR  
North American Brain Tumor Coalition  
North American Transplant Coordinators Organization  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Ovarian Cancer National Alliance  
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network  
Sigma Theta Tau  
Sisters Network, Inc.  
Society of Gastroenterology Nurses & Associates, Inc.  
Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation  
The Intercultural Cancer Council Caucus  
The Lance Armstrong Foundation

The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society  
The Society of Gynecologic Oncologists  
Trust for America's Health  
United Ostomy Association, Inc.  
US Oncology  
Us Too! International  
VHA Inc.  
Visiting Nurse Associations of America  
Wound Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society  
Y-ME National Breast Cancer Organization

As of 8/28/03

Table 3: Supply versus Demand Projections for FTE Registered Nurses by State--2005

State	2005 Supply	2005 Demand	Excess or Shortage (Supply Less Demand) (- = Shortage)	Percent Shortage
Alabama	32,606	34,422	-1,816	-5%
Alaska	3,645	5,023	-1,378	-27%
Arizona	31,395	39,507	-8,112	-21%
Arkansas	18,092	20,086	-1,994	-10%
California	162,645	181,054	-18,409	-10%
Colorado	29,676	33,911	-4,235	-12%
Connecticut	24,175	31,919	-7,744	-24%
Delaware	5,272	7,398	-2,126	-29%
District of Columbia	7,855	9,160	-1,305	-14%
Florida	120,285	128,983	-8,698	-7%
Georgia	50,374	59,199	-8,825	-15%
Hawaii	10,348	9,168	1,180	*
Idaho	5,772	7,246	-1,474	-20%
Illinois	89,830	90,521	-691	*
Indiana	40,741	46,036	-5,295	-12%
Iowa	29,489	28,406	1,083	*
Kansas	24,758	20,692	4,066	*
Kentucky	37,224	30,359	6,865	*
Louisiana	35,664	34,004	1,660	*
Maine	12,002	13,169	-1,167	-9%
Maryland	38,472	41,771	-3,299	-8%
Massachusetts	65,801	70,621	-4,820	-7%
Michigan	69,259	70,718	-1,459	*
Minnesota	44,200	42,247	1,953	*
Mississippi	21,667	21,205	462	*
Missouri	50,086	54,663	-4,577	-8%
Montana	6,795	6,258	537	*
Nebraska	14,316	15,723	-1,407	-9%
Nevada	10,424	12,275	-1,851	-15%
New Hampshire	10,684	11,504	-820	-7%
New Jersey	56,609	69,570	-12,961	-19%
New Mexico	9,509	12,595	-3,086	-25%
New York	146,211	158,851	-12,640	-8%
North Carolina	69,509	68,578	931	*
North Dakota	6,061	6,260	-199	-3.2%
Ohio	96,213	94,204	2,009	*
Oklahoma	19,163	20,411	-1,248	-6%
Oregon	22,433	25,116	-2,683	-11%
Pennsylvania	104,368	115,201	-10,833	-9%
Rhode Island	9,247	10,977	-1,730	-16%
South Carolina	27,739	28,388	-649	*
South Dakota	7,934	7,500	434	*
Tennessee	43,232	55,687	-12,455	-22%
Texas	131,897	142,102	-10,205	-7%
Utah	12,088	13,766	-1,678	-12%
Vermont	5,704	4,991	713	*
Virginia	45,079	52,777	-7,698	-15%
Washington	35,676	41,471	-5,795	-14%
West Virginia	13,862	13,124	738	*
Wisconsin	43,659	39,152	4,507	*
Wyoming	2,699	3,860	-1,161	-30%
TOTAL U.S.	2,012,444	2,161,831	-149,387	-7%

\* No definitive shortage. Estimate is -3% or above.

Source: Projected Supply, Demand, and Shortages of Registered Nurses: 2000-2020  
 July 2002, Health Resources and Services Administration, DHHS