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The Honorable Thomas G. Tancredo
418 Cannon House Office Building
The U.S. House of Representative
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Tancredo:

I am writing on behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), to thank you for introducing the *Nurse Loan Forgiveness Act of 2003* (H.R. 501). As the national voice of baccalaureate and graduate nursing education, AACN represents nursing programs at more than 570 senior colleges and universities that educate over 150,000 students each year and employ over 9,300 nursing faculty. We commend you for your efforts to expand federal loan forgiveness for nurses.

By amending the *Higher Education Act*, your legislation provides loan forgiveness and loan cancellation of up to \$17,000 for nurses that agree to work full-time in an approved health care facility or setting. The combined factors of an aging registered nurse workforce, lack of nursing faculty, and an insufficient number of enrollments in schools of nursing to meet the projected demand for one million well-educated new and replacement nurses by 2010, are having a devastating impact on health care delivery across the nation. Your bill will encourage individuals to enter and continue in the nursing profession.

AACN supports your bill and your ongoing efforts to provide and expand educational opportunities for nurses at time of critical shortage.

Sincerely,

Geraldine "Polly" Bednash, PhD, RN, FAAN
Executive Director

Advancing

Higher

Education

In

Nursing