

March 4, 2008

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
U.S. Senate  
309 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Durbin:

We, the undersigned organizations, would like to thank you for proposing the Troops to Nurse Teachers (TNT) Act of 2008. By leading the charge to increase the number of nurse faculty, you have demonstrated a clear commitment to the nursing profession, as well as our nation's military and civilian healthcare delivery system.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that more than 1.2 million new and replacement nurses will be needed by 2014. Complicating the crisis further is the fact that nursing schools are struggling to expand student capacity, which has inhibited the growth of the nursing workforce. Over the last ten years, the nursing shortage has become more apparent due to the intensified constraints on nursing education programs. In 2007, U.S. nursing schools turned away tens of thousands of qualified applicants primarily due to an insufficient number of faculty.

The TNT program would address the nurse faculty shortage by developing partnerships between the military and civilian schools of nursing in which Nurse Corps Officers from specific stages of their career would serve as nurse educators. Therefore, this program would provide a much needed increase to the nurse faculty population and in turn, help develop the pool of future civilian and military nurses. We appreciate your recognition that the nurse faculty shortage places a significant strain on the ability to adequately develop the nursing workforce and commend your efforts to address this crisis.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Nursing  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses  
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
American Association of Occupational Health Nurses  
American College of Nurse Practitioners  
American Nephrology Nurses' Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Organization of Nurse Executives  
American Radiological Nurses Association  
American Society of PeriAnesthesia 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  
Dermatology Nurses' Association

Emergency Nurses Association  
Infusion Nurses Society  
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists  
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health  
National Conference of Gerontological Nurse Practitioners  
National Council of State Boards of Nursing  
National Gerontological Nursing Association  
National League for Nursing  
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates  
Wound Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society