March 17, 2015

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
U.S. House of Representatives
2413 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Brian Higgins
U.S. House of Representatives
2459 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter King
U.S. House of Representatives
339 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives DeLauro, Higgins, and King:

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), I would like to thank you for introducing the Accelerating Biomedical Research Act (H.R. 531). As the national voice for baccalaureate and graduate nursing education, AACN represents over 760 nursing schools that educate nearly 457,000 students and employ over 17,000 faculty and researchers. Our institutions are committed to developing future generations of practicing nurses and nurse scientists who will contribute to the growing body of healthcare research and lead in translating these discoveries to enhance patient care delivery.

At a time when discretionary spending is facing significant cuts, it is critical that efforts are made to protect federal support for biomedical research. The Accelerating Biomedical Research Act directly addresses this concern by creating budget cap adjustments to allow for maximum investment in NIH under the Budget Control Act (P.L. 112-25) and urges appropriators to sustain NIH’s budget adjusted for inflation throughout future fiscal years.

AACN applauds this legislation to ensure that biomedical research remains a top priority so that patients worldwide can realize its benefits, which range from life-saving therapies to long-term management of chronic illness. As the largest source of dedicated federal funding for biomedical and healthcare research, NIH provides critical dollars not only for biomedical research, but also for nursing research to advance its goals to improve patient outcomes.

Again, we thank you for introducing H.R. 531 to support the vital work of biomedical research. If our association can be of any assistance to your or your staff, please do not hesitate to contact AACN’s Senior Director of Government Affairs and Healthy Policy, Dr. Suzanne Miyamoto, at smiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu, or 202-463-6930, ext. 247.

Sincerely,

Eileen T. Breslin, PhD, RN, FAAN
President