

May 2, 2008

The Honorable Lois Capps, RN
U.S. House of Representatives
1110 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Capps:

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 most recent projections estimate that more than one million new and replacement nurses will be needed by 2016. 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 Act 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 Nurse Practitioners
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 Rehabilitation Nurses
Association of State and Territorial Directors of Nursing
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses

Emergency Nurses Association
Dermatology Nurses' Association
Infusion Nurses Society
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Black Nurses Association
National Conference of Gerontological Nurse Practitioners
National Council of State Boards of Nursing
National Gerontological Nursing Association
National League for Nursing
National Nursing Centers Consortium
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs
Oncology Nursing Society
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates
The Public Health Nursing Section of the American Public Health Association
Wound Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society