

February 26, 2009

The Honorable Richard Durbin
United States Senate
309 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Durbin:

On behalf of the undersigned nursing organizations, thank you for introducing the *Nurse Education, Expansion, and Development (NEED) Act of 2009*. We commend you for your efforts to address the nation's nursing and nurse faculty shortages through the capitation grants outlined in the NEED Act.

During the 2008-2009 academic year, nursing schools turned away tens of thousands of qualified applications from baccalaureate and graduate programs. Some of the major reasons cited for not accepting eligible applicants were an insufficient number of faculty, clinical sites, classroom space, clinical preceptors, and budget constraints. The NEED Act would provide versatile capitation grants allowing schools of nursing to address these issues by recruiting and retaining faculty, acquiring necessary equipment, enhancing audiovisual and clinical laboratories, expanding infrastructures, and recruiting students.

Capitation grants have had a positive effect on stabilizing nursing shortages in the past. The NEED Act, if enacted, will ensure that schools are adequately equipped to educate the nurses required to meet current and future workforce demands. Moreover, this legislation would improve the quality and safety our nation's healthcare delivery system by increasing the supply of highly educated nurses who deliver vital healthcare services.

We applaud your continued dedication to solving the nursing and nurse faculty shortages. On behalf of our memberships and the entire nursing profession, we commend you and your staff for your outstanding efforts in this regard.

Sincerely,

American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Nurse Assessment
Coordinators
American Association of Nurse Executives
American Association of Occupational Health
Nurses
American College of Nurse Practitioners
American Nurses Association
American Organization of Nurse Executives
American Public Health Association, Public Health
Nursing Section
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
Association of Community Health Nursing
Educators
Association of State & Territorial Directors of
Nursing

Association of Women's Health, Obstetric &
Neonatal Nurses
Dermatology Nurses' Association
Infusion Nurses Society
National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in
Women's Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National League for Nursing
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner
Faculties
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs
Quad Council of Public Health Nursing
Organizations
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates
Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society