

# AMERICAN ACADEMY OF NURSE PRACTITIONERS

Incorporated 1985

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Press Release Regarding President's 2004 proposed funding for Advanced Practice Nurses in Title VIII.

The American Academy of Nurse Practitioners expresses grave concern today over the reduction in Title VIII funding for advanced practice nurse education and traineeships proposed by President Bush in his 2004 budget proposal. Funding for nurse practitioner educational programs and student traineeships continues to be needed in order to meet the need for patient care throughout the United States.

In the presence of spiraling medical care costs and the shortage of professional nurses and primary care providers, the need to prepare quality, cost effective providers such as nurse practitioners continues to be acute. Nurse practitioners are primary care providers who can meet many of the nation's current health care needs. They have demonstrated their ability to provide high quality, cost effective care in whatever environment they practice. They are valued and needed providers in both rural and urban communities. They provide care to underserved and vulnerable patient populations so desperately in need of health care services. It is important that the proper preparation of enough of these providers is maintained to meet health care needs within the current national shortages. Placing educational programs that prepare these health care providers at risk, jeopardizes the health of underserved and vulnerable populations as well.

There is no other federal funding source for the preparation of nurse practitioners. Cutting funds to these programs, places many communities at risk for increasing health problems in the absence of adequate number of health care providers such as nurse practitioners.

Nurse practitioners want to assist in meeting the growing health needs of the population in a cost effective manner. To do this, nurse practitioner educational program funding and traineeships cannot be decreased in this manner. Short changing these programs is a serious oversight that must be corrected.

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