



Talking Points on FY 2007 Funding for Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs

Background and Timeline

- Nursing Workforce Development authorities provide federal focus for nursing education and practice to assure adequate supply and distribution of nurses.
- Title VIII is the largest source of federal funding that assists students, schools of nursing, and health systems to recruit, educate, and retain registered nurses.
- Title VIII programs provide grants to institutions as well as scholarships and loans to individual students. In FY 2005, they supported the recruitment, education, and retention of 52,759 nursing students.
- In FY 2006, Congress provided \$149.68 million for the Nursing Workforce Development Programs under Title VIII and in FY 2007, the President's Budget request provided level funding for these programs.

Important Points

- The Bureau of Labor Statistics has projected the need for at least 1.2 million new and replacement nurses by 2014.
- According to a report released by the American Hospital Association in April 2006, U.S. hospitals need approximately 118,000 registered nurses to fill vacant positions nationwide.
- This comes at a time when U.S. nursing schools turned away 41,683 qualified applications from baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs in 2005 due to insufficient numbers of faculty, clinical sites, classroom space, clinical preceptors, and budget constraints.
- Title VIII programs such as the Nurse Faculty Loan Program received \$4.77 million in FY 2006. These grants are projected to assist 475 future nurse faculty.
- In FY 2005, the Nursing Education Loan Repayment Program under Title VIII granted 803 new and renewal awards to applicants who made a commitment to provide services in health care facilities with a critical shortage of nurses. Only 184 of the 4,465 applicants participated due to a lack of funding.
- Title VIII programs give preference to projects that benefit rural or underserved populations. The Workforce Diversity Grants under Title VIII directly supported 401 students while an additional 9,338 students were enrolled in funded pre-entry preparation programs in FY 2005.

The Ask

- In FY 2007, the nursing community requested an additional \$25 million for Title VIII programs to resolve the nursing shortage. We urge Congress to preserve existing funding for nursing.