



Talking Points on FY 2008 Funding for Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs

Background and Timeline

- Nursing Workforce Development authorities under Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act are the largest source of federal funding that assist students, schools of nursing, and health systems to recruit, educate, and retain registered nurses.
- In FY 2006, Title VIII programs supported the recruitment, education, and retention of 48,698 nurses and nursing students.
- In his FY 2008 budget proposal, the President called for a \$44 million decrease in funding for Nursing Workforce Development Programs from \$150 million in FY 2007 to \$105 million. Under this proposal, the Advanced Education Nursing programs, which provided support to approximately 9,000 graduate nursing students in FY 2006, would have been eliminated.
- For FY 2008, the House-passed Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill provides \$166 million for Title VIII, a \$16 million (10.7 percent) increase over FY 2007. The Senate version provides \$170 million for Title VIII, a \$20 million (13.4 percent) increase.

Important Points

- In April 2006, the Health Resources and Services Administration predicted that the nation's nursing shortage would grow to more than 1,000,000 nurses by 2020.
- This comes at a time when schools of nursing are struggling to increase student capacity. The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) has reported that U.S. nursing schools turned away 42,866 qualified applicants to baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs in 2006 alone. Almost three quarters of nursing schools responding to the 2006 AACN survey pointed to faculty shortages as a primary reason for not accepting all qualified applicants.
- In 2007, the Association of Academic Health Centers surveyed Chief Executive Officers from academic health centers regarding faculty shortages across various health professions. These executives rated the nursing faculty shortage as the most severe among all health professions, with 81 percent noting the nursing faculty shortage as a problem.
- Title VIII programs such as the Nurse Faculty Loan Program which received \$4.77 million in FY 2007 helps to alleviate the nurse faculty shortage. Unfortunately, in FY 2006 schools of nursing requested over three times the funds available to educate additional nurse faculty.
- Title VIII programs also directly increase the supply of nurses to areas with the most need. In FY 2006, the Nursing Education Loan Repayment Program under Title VIII granted 613 new and continuing awards to applicants who made a commitment to provide services in health care facilities with a critical shortage of nurses.
- Expanding the diversity of our nation's nursing workforce is an important goal of the Title VIII programs. In FY 2006, the Workforce Diversity Grants under Title VIII supported 20,740 disadvantaged nursing students.

The Ask

- In FY 2008, the nursing community requests **at least \$170 million for Title VIII** programs to resolve the nursing and nurse faculty shortage.