

May 1, 2009

The Honorable Nita Lowey
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Lowey:

The undersigned members of the ANSR (Americans for Nursing Shortage Relief) Alliance applaud your leadership in introducing H.R. 2043, the ***Nurse Education, Expansion, and Development Act of 2009***. This bill, which authorizes capitation grants to schools of nursing, offers a robust platform for supporting programs to increase the number of nursing faculty and students by hiring new faculty, retaining current faculty, enhancing clinical laboratories, expanding infrastructure, and recruiting students.

Today's shortage of appropriately prepared nurses is deepening health disparities, inflated costs, and poor quality of health care outcomes. It is outpacing the current level of federal resources and investments. Nursing education programs across the country suffer from a continuing and growing shortage of faculty, which prevents these institutions from admitting many qualified students who are applying for entry. An estimated 99,000 qualified applications – or almost 40% of qualified applications submitted to prelicensure RN programs – were rejected in 2006-07. This imbalance exacerbates present scarcities in the nursing education infrastructure preventing too few eligible people from entering the profession at the rate the nation requires to meet our growing health care needs.

Without faculty to educate our future nurses, the shortage cannot be resolved. The ***Nurse Education, Expansion, and Development Act*** provides crucial attention and significantly more funding to this systemic problem, without which we will continue to lose ground in the effort to improve health care for all within our nation. The ANSR Alliance looks forward to working with you and your staff in securing passage of this important piece of legislation that aids in remedying the nurse and nurse faculty shortages.

Sincerely yours,

American Academy of Nursing
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
American Association of Nurse Assessment
Coordinators
American Association of Nurse Executives
American Association of Occupational Health Nurses
American Organization of Nurse Executives
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Society for Pain Management Nursing
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
American Society of Plastic Surgical Nurses
Association for Radiologic & Imaging Nursing
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses
Emergency Nurses Association
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
Infusion Nurses Society
Legislative Coalition of Virginia Nurses

National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Neonatal Nurses
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in
Women's Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Council of State Boards of Nursing
National Gerontological Nursing Association
National League for Nursing
National Nursing Centers Consortium
National Nursing Staff Development Organization
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
National Student Nurses' Association, Inc.
Pediatric Endocrinology Nursing Society
RN First Assistants Policy & Advocacy Coalition
Society of Pediatric Nurses
Society of Trauma Nurses