

January 22, 2026

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Democratic Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Democratic Leader, U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Thune, Leader Jeffries, and Leader Schumer:

The American Nurses Association (ANA) encourages Congress to take decisive action this year on critical nursing priorities to address vital healthcare challenges facing our nation. As detailed below, these priorities aim to strengthen the nursing workforce, remove barriers to nurse-led care, and preserve patient access to healthcare coverage.

Reauthorize and Fund the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics [estimates](#) that there will be approximately 194,500 openings for registered nurses (RNs) annually through 2033 due to nurse retirements and workforce exits. The nursing shortage carries enormous risk to patient outcomes as care quality decreases when nurses are stretched too thin. To meet our nation's nursing workforce demand, Congress must support nursing education by passing the **Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2025 (H.R. 3593/S. 1874)**.

ANA also thanks the House and Senate Appropriations Committees for including **\$305.472 million for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.]**) in the "Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2026." Last reauthorized in 2020, the Title VIII Programs represent the only dedicated federal programs aimed at bolstering nursing education from entry-level preparation through graduate study. These programs address multiple facets of nursing workforce demand, including education, practice, recruitment, and retention. They also aim to recruit nursing students who are trained to meet the unique needs of patient populations across the country and attract nurses to rural and medically underserved communities. Lawmakers must pass the "Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2026" to ensure stable, full-year funding for critical nursing education, workforce, and research funding.

Build the Nursing Workforce Through Tax Incentives

Increasingly, experienced nurses are leaving the bedside due to persistent, unresolved workplace challenges that lead to burnout. This trend has resulted in a shortage of nurse preceptors to train novice nurses and seasoned nurses who may be new to a certain nursing specialty. Having inadequate numbers of nurse preceptors hinders the clinical training of the next generation of nurses—which results in negative implications for the nursing workforce, health care delivery, and patient outcomes. The bipartisan, bicameral **Providing Real-World Education and Clinical**

Experience by Precepting Tomorrow's (PRECEPT) Nurses Act (H.R. 392/S.131) encourages more nurses to serve as clinical preceptors by establishing a seven-year pilot program that provides a \$2,000 tax credit to individuals who serve as a clinical preceptor for (1) nursing students, (2) nurses with less than six months of experience, or (3) advance practice registered nurse (APRN) candidates in a health professional shortage area (HPSA). This legislation follows the model of states that have successfully provided nurse preceptor tax credits, including Alabama, Georgia, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Idaho. ANA urges Congress to pass this legislation.

Additionally, the Title VIII Nurse Corps Scholarship and Loan Repayment Programs are notable programs that support current and future nurses who serve patients in critical shortage areas. Unfortunately, recipients of financial aid benefits through these programs are subjected to federal income tax liability over their benefits, unlike recipients of the *National Health Service Corps*. The **Nurse Corps Tax Parity Act (H.R. 3154/S. 1548)** would eliminate the federal tax penalty for recipients of scholarships and loan repayments through the Nurse Corps Programs. ANA urges Congress to address this disparity by passing this legislation so that patients have enhanced access to a compassionate and well-trained nursing workforce.

Remove and Streamline Barriers to Access

Federal employees have the ability to select a nurse practitioner (NP) as their health care provider under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHB). While most state licensing laws authorize NPs to diagnose and treat patients for workplace injuries, the Federal Employee's Compensation Act (FECA) disregards state law and does not allow NP to make diagnoses, certify disabilities and oversee treatment for injured federal workers. Under FECA, which is outdated and represents an outlier among federal programs, NPs cannot certify federal employees' injuries or oversee their health care delivery. Instead, federal employees must find a physician—who could be hours away—to certify their disability and oversee their care for the purposes of qualifying for federal workers' compensation. This is true even when the injured federal worker has an established relationship with an NP as their provider of choice under the FEHB.

The **Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act (H.R. 3170)** would update FECA to allow NPs to certify injured federal employees' disabilities and oversee their care consistent with their state's scope of practice. By enacting H.R. 3170, Congress would expand patient choice and timely access to care for the federal workforce, especially in rural and medically underserved communities. Further, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has repeatedly estimated that there are no costs associated with H.R. 3170 and that the measure would help federal workers return to work faster. Finally, this bipartisan bill has support from a wide range of national organizations and was unanimously passed by the House Education and Workforce Committee in the 118th and 119th Congresses. The bill was also approved by the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee in the 118th Congress. ANA urges Congress to remove this outdated barrier by passing this commonsense measure to ensure federal workers have access to the quality care provided by NPs.

Addressing Health Coverage Affordability

ANA recognizes the significant challenges posed by the impending expiration of the enhanced advance premium tax credits (APTCs). For millions of Americans, these credits are essential for their ability to purchase affordable, comprehensive health insurance. Congress must work in a

bipartisan manner to pass legislation to address the expiring credits before the end of the year. We urge consensus on a path forward that will preserve access to comprehensive, affordable health insurance for those who rely on the enhanced APTCs to obtain needed coverage for themselves and their families.

About ANA

ANA is the premier organization representing the interests of the nation's 5 million registered nurses through its constituent and state nurses' associations, organizational affiliates, and individual members. RNs serve in multiple direct care, care coordination, and administrative leadership roles, across the full spectrum of health care settings. RNs provide and coordinate patient care, educate patients and the public about various health conditions, and provide advice and emotional support to patients and their family members. ANA members also include those practicing in the four APRN roles: nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse-midwives, and certified registered nurse anesthetists. ANA and its nurses are dedicated to improving practices, policies, delivery models, outcomes, and access across the health care continuum. Our nurses care also deeply about their patients because they understand that access to coverage and trusted providers is essential for delivering safe, compassionate, whole-person care.

Thank you for your consideration of these priorities, and ANA looks forward to continuing to collaborate with you and serve as a resource. Please contact Tim Nanof, ANA's Executive Vice President for Policy and Government Affairs, at Tim.Nanof@ana.org with any questions.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Mensik Kennedy, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN
President

cc: Senate Appropriations Committee
House Appropriations Committee
Senate Finance Committee
Senate HELP Committee
Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee
House Ways & Means Committee
House Energy & Commerce Committee
House Education & Workforce Committee
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