May 9, 2019

The Honorable Richard Burr  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeff Merkley  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Burr and Merkley:

As the oldest nursing organization in the United States, the National League for Nursing (NLN) applauds you for introducing the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2019, to reauthorize the Title VIII nursing workforce development programs at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The NLN promotes excellence in nursing education to build a strong and diverse nursing workforce to advance the health of the nation and the global community. The League represents more than 1,200 nursing schools, 40,000 members, and 26 regional constituent leagues.

For over 50 years, HRSA’s Title VIII nursing workforce development programs have provided education and training for entry-level and advanced degree nurses to improve access to, and quality of, health care in underserved areas. As you know, health inequities, inflated costs, and poor health care outcomes are intensifying because of today’s shortfall of appropriately prepared licensed vocational/practical nurses (LVNs/LPNs), registered nurses (RNs), advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), and nurse faculty. This bill ensures the Title VIII nursing workforce development programs will continue to address the specific needs of the nursing and nurse faculty workforce as well as patients in our communities.

Thank you again for introducing this important piece of legislation to strengthen the future of nursing and the health of the nation. The NLN looks forward to working with you to move the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2019 through the legislative process. Please do not hesitate to contact Christine Murphy, the NLN’s director of public policy and advocacy, at 202-909-2533 or via email at cmurphy@nln.org, with any questions you may have or information you may need.

Sincerely yours,

Beverly Malone, PhD, RN, FAAN  
Chief Executive Officer