



May 10, 2007

The Honorable Carolyn McCarthy
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative McCarthy:

The National League for Nursing (NLN) applauds your leadership and offers its strong support for the ***Nurse Faculty Higher Education Act***. This bill, which addresses critical shortages in the nursing profession, can make a significant difference by its creation of a pilot program to increase the number of graduate educated nurse faculty. The NLN's support is based upon the positive contributions this legislation would make by providing grants to hospitals and health facilities to support institutions permitting qualified nurses to earn a salary while they continue their education. Nurses participating in this program would continue to work part-time or flexible schedules to accommodate their schooling. Upon completion of the program, each nurse will be required to teach two years for each year of support received.

As you are well aware, despite the passage of the ***Nurse Reinvestment Act*** in 2002, schools of nursing continue to suffer from a growing shortage of faculty, which prevents these institutions from admitting more students. The supply of appropriately prepared nurses and nursing faculty is inadequate to meet the needs of a diverse, aging population, and this shortfall will grow more serious over the next five years. As a result, the health of our nation will continue to be jeopardized as fewer nurses are available and able to provide the quality care we all need – and deserve – over the course of our lives. This legislation will help ensure that nurses exist in the future who are prepared and qualified to take care of you, your family, and all those in this country who will need our care.

The NLN is the sole organization representing leaders in nursing education and nurse faculty across all the types of nursing programs in the United States. With more than 1,100 nursing schools and health care agencies, some 21,000 individual members comprising nurses, educators, administrators, public members, and 18 constituent leagues, the NLN is the premier organization – established 114 years ago – dedicated to excellence in nursing education that prepares the nursing workforce to meet the needs of our diverse populations in an ever-changing health care environment. We commend your forceful and continued leadership in addressing the nursing shortage and take pride in your commitment to provide educational opportunities for the men and women who dare to care as America's nurses. If we can be of any assistance to you in the passage of this legislation, please feel free to contact Kathleen Ream, the NLN's Government Affairs Director, at 703-241-3974.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beverly Malone", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Beverly Malone, PhD, RN, FAAN
Chief Executive Officer