



Nursing Workforce Development Programs Receive Increase Congress Reaches "Agreement" on FY 2005 Budget

In a rare weekend session for Congress, by a vote of 344 to 51, the House approved an \$821.9 billion omnibus spending bill - H.R.4818 - on November 20. That same day the Senate also approved the omnibus bill by a vote of 65 to 30. Despite these votes, the appropriations process for FY 2005 has not concluded. A skeleton crew in both chambers assembled November 24 to pass another continuing resolution to keep the government operating two more weeks until the stalled appropriations bill can be enrolled and sent to the president.

What is in contention is a controversial provision attached to the omnibus bill which would allow the chairmen and staff of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to have access to individual tax returns

without any penalties for possible disclosure of the confidential information. The Senate has already passed a resolution deleting the controversial provision. The House is scheduled to do the same on December 6.

In comparison to other non-defense discretionary programs that received no increases or took an actual cut in their funding levels, the Title VIII - Nursing Workforce Development Programs did exceedingly well with a 6.2% increase from FY 2004 to FY 2005. (See table below.)

Thanks to all of you who took the time to contact your congressional delegation urging them to support increased funding for the nursing programs under Title VIII.

Table with 4 columns: Nursing Workforce Development Programs, FY 2004 Final, FY 2005 Request, Conference FY 2005 Final (Includes .8% across-the-board cut). Rows include Total (Amounts in Thousands), Advanced Education Nursing, Comprehensive Geriatric Education, Loan Repayment & Scholarships, Nurse Education, Practice & Retention Grants, Nursing Faculty Loan Program, and Nursing Workforce Diversity.

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Pennsylvania Addresses State's Nursing Shortage

Mark Your Calendars!

If your institution has a federal grant through the Bureau of Health Professions at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), you must attend **Health Professions: The Lifeline to America's Health** on June 1-3, 2005 in Washington, DC. A program brochure will be released soon from HRSA, but preliminary information indicates that the mandatory 2-½ day conference, including plenary sessions, workshops, and exhibitors will be held for all bureau grantees at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel. Two thousand attendees are expected, so you may wish to make hotel reservations early.

On November 17, the Pennsylvania Workforce Investment Board (WIB) submitted to Governor Edward Rendell (D) its recommendations addressing the state's nursing shortage. Approximately 115,000 RNs and 34,000 LPNs currently work in Pennsylvania. It is estimated that by 2010, the RN shortage in Pennsylvania will grow to 17,000.

When Governor Rendell created WIB's public/private Center for Health Careers in April 2004, he challenged its Leadership Council to find viable, realistic ways to enhance the nursing education system. To do so, the council met with nearly 200 nursing, education, business, labor, and health care experts. Following the presentation to the governor, WIB chair David Malone said, "We believe the implementation of these initiatives will take some very important steps to ensure that Pennsylvania will continue to provide the highest quality of health care in the United States."

The 15 recommendations, developed by WIB's Pennsylvania Center for Health Careers, focus on expanding the capacity of the state's nursing education system. They are divided into three categories: the need for additional qualified faculty; the need to identify additional clinical opportunities for nursing students; and the need to attract and retain nursing students and graduates. The following five recommendations are being proposed to address the challenges impacting nurse educator recruitment and advancement in Pennsylvania:

- Expand supply of qualified nurse educators as quickly as possible for both RN and LPN programs, with particular emphasis on the attraction of minority and non-traditional nurse educators.
- Provide greater and more flexible financial assistance to encourage students to pursue nursing education careers, with particular emphasis on the attraction of minority and non-traditional nurse educators.
- Encourage pathways for MSN educators who will teach in nursing programs.
- Establish a formal reporting system for forecasting supply and demand of RNs and LPNs on an ongoing basis.
- Identify and address long-term barriers impacting the recruitment, development, and retention of nursing faculty in Pennsylvania.

To view the details of these recommendations and the full report, go to [Nursing Recommendation Report](http://www.state.pa.us) at www.state.pa.us.