



Title VIII Funding in Limbo Congress in Recess until November 16

A continuing resolution to fund all non-defense government operations at the FY 2004 level through November 20 was enacted just prior to the start of the new federal fiscal year October 1, 2004. Title VIII – Nursing Workforce Development Programs are contained within the FY 2005 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill. The full House and the Senate Appropriations Committee have passed their version of this appropriations, but not the full Senate.

Efforts are currently underway to negotiate final funding levels for the bill and wrap it into a large omnibus appropriations bill that the lame-duck Congress will take up on November 20. How successful a lame-duck session will be in finishing appropriations bills is unknown. The legislation may not be acted on until the 109th Congress is ensconced in January. The possibility also exists that a year-long continuing resolution will be adopted, an approach favored by fiscal conservatives.

Table with 5 columns: Program Name, FY 2004, FY 2005 Request, House-Passed FY 2005, Senate Committee Mark. Rows include Total (Amounts in Millions), 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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Nursing Faculty Shortage Briefing Held on Capitol Hill

Before an audience of more than 200, leading experts from the nursing community discussed the nursing faculty shortage at a September 9th Capitol Hill briefing for congressional officials. Dr. Terry Valiga, NLN's chief program officer, laid the groundwork for the other speakers by providing the latest statistical findings on the faculty shortage. (cont'd on page 2)



Where Will You Be on November 2? The Voting Power of One

In 1998, 36.4 percent of voters went to the polls to cast their ballots. That is the lowest voter turnout since 1942! Two out of three Americans, 115 million eligible voters, simply stayed home and did not vote at all. Many people explain their failure to vote by saying: "I'm just one person. My little old vote doesn't make a difference." There is a lot of historical evidence to the contrary.

- ★ In 1999, Leslie Byrne was elected to the Virginia Senate by 37 votes, less than one vote per precinct.
- ★ Donald Sherwood was elected to the House of Representatives from Pennsylvania by a margin of 515 votes, less than one vote per precinct, making this election the closest House of Representatives race in 1998.
- ★ Loretta Sanchez was elected to Congress from California by less than four votes per precinct in 1996.
- ★ John F. Kennedy's margin of victory over Richard Nixon in 1960 was less than one vote per precinct.

(Thanks to the League of Women Voters for making the case so succinctly on their website.)

Be Informed!

Before going to the voting booth on November 2, make sure you know the candidates' positions. NLN's Public Policy Action Center contains a comprehensive resource specifically designed to meet all your election 2004 needs. From detailed candidate bios to information about specific ballot initiatives to help in locating polling sites, all this can be found under the "Elections & Candidates" tab on the [Action Center homepage](#).

The features include:

- ★ ZIP code and address-to-district matching for a list of presidential, congressional, and statewide candidates.
- ★ Candidate biographical and contact information.
- ★ Candidate position statements.
- ★ Statewide ballot initiative information.
- ★ Voter guide information including ID needed at the polls, and links to voting machine descriptions and polling locations.

Try It Today!

Nursing Faculty Shortage Briefing (cont'd)

The briefing was sponsored by Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) and the ANSR (Americans for Nursing Shortage Relief) Alliance. The NLN is a founding member of the Alliance which is composed of 50 nursing organizations that collectively represent nearly all of the nation's 2.7 million nurses. ANSR's goal is to work with Congress to implement a comprehensive set of initiatives to increase the nursing workforce and enhance the flexibility allowed in nursing education and clinical practice.

Senators Support Increase for Title VIII

In an October 18 letter addressed to Senators Arlen Specter (R-PA) and Tom Harkin (D-SD), chairman and ranking member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, respectively, thirty-seven senators joined in supporting a \$20 million increase in FY 2005 for Title VIII – Nursing Workforce Development Programs. An increase of this size would bring the total nursing budget to \$161.8 million. (See lead story on page 1.)

Led by Senators Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) and Susan Collins (R-ME), the other senators supporting the increase for Title VIII are: Biden (D-DE), Bingaman (D-NM), Boxer (D-CA), Cantwell (D-WA), Chafee (R-RI), Clinton (D-NY), Corzine (D-NJ), Daschle (D-SD),

DeWine (R-OH), Dodd (D-CT), Dorgan (D-ND), Durbin (D-IL), Feingold (D-WI), Feinstein (D-CA), Hagel (R-NE), Hatch (R-UT), Jeffords (I-VT), Johnson (D-SD), Kennedy (D-MA), Kohl (D-W), Lautenberg (D-NJ), Leahy (D-VT), Lieberman (D-CT), Lincoln (D-AR), Lugar (R-IN), Murray (D-WA), Nelson (D-NE), Reed (D-RI), Reid (D-NV), Roberts (R-KS), Sarbanes (D-MD), Schumer (D-NY), Snowe (R-ME), Stabenow (D-MI), Wyden (D-OR).

Thanks to all the NLN members who contacted their senators urging them to sign onto the Mikulski-Collins “Dear Colleague” letter. Please take the time now to thank your senators who are supporting the increase.

HRSA Announces Potential Funding Levels for FY 2005

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) anticipates that for FY 2005 it will have \$10.5 million to fund 335 awards under its **Advanced Education Nursing Traineeship** program. The grant program provides financial support through traineeships for registered nurses enrolled in advanced education nursing programs to prepare nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, nurse midwives, nurse anesthetists, nurse administrators, **nurse educators**, public health nurses, and nurses in other specialties requiring advanced education. Eligible applicants are schools of nursing, academic health centers, and other public or private nonprofit organizations. Applications are due November 18. Contact: Karen Breeden, 301-443-6333. Refer to HRSA-05-061. CFDA number: 93.358.

Anticipated funding for the **Advanced Education Nursing Grant** program will be approximately \$2.1 million for eight awards to support the enhancement of **advanced nursing**

education and practice. Eligible applicants are schools of nursing, academic health centers and other public or private nonprofit and for-profit entities. Applications are due December 3. Contact: Michele Richardson, 301-443-6193. Refer to HRSA-05-024. CFDA Number: 93.247.

Approximately \$200,000 will be allocated for four awards under the **Minority Faculty Fellowship Grant** program to increase the number of under-represented minority individuals who are members of the **faculty** in a health profession school. The grants enable schools to provide a stipend and a training allowance to the faculty fellow. Eligible applicants include schools of allopathic and osteopathic medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, optometry, allied health, public health, podiatry, pharmacy, **nursing**, and graduate programs in behavioral and mental health. Applications are due December 6. Contact: Daniel Reed, 301-443-2982. Refer to: HRSA-05-073. CFDA Number: 93.923.

Capitation Bill Introduced in House

On October 8, 2004, Representatives Nita Lowey (D-NY) and Lois Capps (D-CA), introduced H.R.5324, the **Nurse Education, Expansion, and Development Act of 2004**. The bill amends the **Public Health Service Act** to authorize capitation grants to increase the number of nursing faculty and students at eligible schools of nursing. The legislation has been referred to the Energy and Commerce Committee, but no action is anticipated during the upcoming "lame-duck" session. Expect to see it reintroduced in the next Congress.

Money for Nursing Faculty Helps but Isn't Close to Solving Rhode Island Shortage Crisis

Thanks to a \$790,178 appropriation in the current fiscal year, three nursing schools in Rhode Island have been able to hire 13 new faculty members and admit more students into their programs. Nursing leaders in the state say the money is welcome, but it barely makes a dent in addressing the nursing shortage.

While national and local efforts to recruit nurses have boosted interest in nursing as a career, nursing schools across the country have not been able to accommodate the demand. According to the Hospital Association of Rhode Island, applications to nursing schools in Rhode Island increased by 71% between 2001 and 2003, but the number of students enrolled grew only 48%.

By enabling Rhode Island nursing schools to add more faculty, the new money is helping. Rhode Island College's nursing school hired three new faculty members, and was able to accommodate 30 additional students, bringing this year's enrollment to 340. The Community College of Rhode Island added six nursing faculty members, which made it possible to increase the number of students in first-year nursing classes from 250 to 300. With two new faculty members hired in the fall and two more coming on board in January, the University of Rhode Island's School of Nursing was able to admit 30 additional students this year, bringing the class size to 160.

Unfortunately, the money is a one-time appropriation. If the Rhode Island General Assembly does not renew the spending next year, the new faculty members will lose their jobs. Furthermore, the appropriation does not address another problem nursing schools face – low faculty salaries. In light of a new study projecting that the severe nursing shortage in Rhode Island will require nursing schools to double or triple their current capacity, the problems seem daunting.

Sign Up for E-Mail Policy Alerts

NLN E-mail Alerts provide strategic information to all those who wish to affect key policy issues of interest to nurse educators. If you would like to be put on the distribution list to receive future Alerts, send a note to Kathi Ream, NLN's government affairs manager, at nlingov@aol.com.