



May 6, 2025

The Honorable Jacky Rosen  
713 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins  
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

RE: *Thank You for Introducing the Train More Nurses Act (S. 547)*

Dear Senators Rosen and Collins,

On behalf of the Healthcare Workforce Coalition, I am writing to thank you for your leadership in developing commonsense solutions to address America's widespread nursing shortage that is impacting communities nationwide. Your legislation, the *Train More Nurses Act (S. 547)*, will go a long way towards bolstering America's nursing workforce, strengthening our healthcare system, enhancing patient access to care, and improving healthcare outcomes.

Our organization brings together a diverse group of healthcare workers and stakeholders to advocate collectively for a robust and resilient healthcare workforce. While our members represent a wide array of disciplines from across the healthcare continuum, we are united in our commitment to addressing the workforce shortages and challenges within our healthcare system through responsible and sustainable policy solutions.

America's nursing shortage is driven by many factors, from burnout to violence against healthcare workers. Yet one of the most overlooked factors is that some U.S. nursing schools are suffering from serious faculty shortages, which inherently undercut their ability to graduate enough nurses to keep up with the growing demand for care.

We support the *Train More Nurses Act* as an important first step in resolving our nation's nursing shortage by directing the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), as well as the U.S. Secretary of Labor, to conduct a thorough review of nursing grant programs in order to find opportunities to increase faculty at nursing schools, especially those in underserved areas. The Healthcare Workforce Coalition is particularly thankful that your legislation recognizes we cannot grow a more robust nursing workforce without adequate faculty to support greater student capacity. Finding ways to increase nursing school faculty

– such as the ways you outline in the *Train More Nurses Act* - is essential to enrolling more students and training the next generation of nurses.

According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), [70.2% of nursing schools](#) nationwide either have vacant full-time faculty positions or need additional faculty. This number will only grow as [one-third of the current nursing faculty workforce is expected to retire](#) by this year. [Tens of thousands of qualified applications](#) are turned away from nursing schools every year due to these faculty shortages, among other issues. While master's and doctorally prepared nurses provide the cornerstone of nursing education, AACN data show more than 5,000 qualified applications were turned away from master's programs in 2023, and more than 4,000 qualified applications were turned away from doctoral programs that same year. This further diminishes the pool of available faculty. In fact, most nursing schools point to faculty shortages “as a top reason for not accepting all qualified applicants into their programs.”

The Healthcare Workforce Coalition applauds your efforts to close the nursing faculty gap, which will help increase capacity at nursing programs nationwide. We were also grateful to see that the *Train More Nurses Act* would focus specifically on addressing the nursing shortage in underserved and critical need areas, where access to care is already limited, and patients often face increased healthcare needs.

Moreover, the *Train More Nurses Act* would help strengthen existing career pathways for nurses, providing a clear, well-defined career progression. That includes facilitating the career transition for Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) to become Registered Nurses (RNs). In doing so, your important legislation will help expand career opportunities and strengthen retention in the nursing workforce.

The Healthcare Workforce Coalition and our members sincerely appreciate your continued leadership in Washington, particularly for working across the aisle to address our nation's growing nursing shortage with commonsense solutions. If we can be of any assistance in your efforts to advance this important legislation, please reach out to Catherine Pyle at [Catherine\\_pyle@nicklesgroup.com](mailto:Catherine_pyle@nicklesgroup.com).

In the meantime, please continue to be a vocal champion for smart policies like the *Train More Nurses Act* that will help strengthen America's healthcare workforce to ensure improved access and better care for patients and communities nationwide.

Sincerely,

Healthcare Workforce Coalition