

Support Nurse Anesthesia Workforce Development

America's Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) are advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) who provide the majority of anesthesia care to rural and medically underserved Americans; to the U.S. Armed Forces at home, at sea, and abroad; and to our veterans. Nurse anesthesia care is not only safe, it is the most cost-effective method of anesthesia services delivery, a critical consideration as Congress and policymakers seek to bring healthcare costs under control. Promoting APRN and CRNA workforce development helps advance a healthcare system that is safe, accessible to patients, and affordable.

- **Support FY2019 Appropriations for Nurse Anesthesia Education** — Nurse anesthesia educational programs collectively receive about \$2.25 million each year through the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Program, funded through Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations legislation. The AANA requests that the FY2020 budget for Title VIII be \$266 million to help fund additional competitively awarded nurse anesthesia educational program development and expansion grants and that the line items funding these programs be kept separate. This amount is a 7 percent increase over FY2019 levels. Demand for nurse anesthesia services is anticipated to continue growing as the U.S. population ages. Within Title VIII, the Advanced Nursing Education Program should be provided at least level funding of \$74.5 million. This competitive program is effective and critical to APRN workforce development and patient access to care, and its funding has not kept up with inflation since 2005.
- **Promote Graduate Nursing Education** — Baby boomer retirements and increased demand for in health coverage require a healthcare workforce sufficient to deliver patient access to high quality care. The Affordable Care Act included a four-year pilot project for Graduate Nursing Education (GNE) intended to support the clinical practice education of APRNs for America's growing population of Medicare patients. Backed by the nursing community and AARP, and now under way through grants from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), GNE seeks to ensure that the promise of health insurance coverage can deliver healthcare safely and cost-effectively.
- **Support Renewal of the Title VIII Program Authorization** — Though under-funded, the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Program has been effective at promoting patient access to quality care provided by CRNAs, other APRNs, and registered nurses (RNs). Its authorization is subject to renewal and is due to be extended.

ACTION FOR CONGRESS: Contact the Appropriations Subcommittees on Labor-HHS-Education and express support for \$266 million for APRN and CRNA workforce development appropriations under Title VIII.

Support reauthorization of the Title VIII program by cosponsoring H.R. 728.