



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 FY2018 Appropriations for Nurse Anesthesia Education** — Nurse anesthesia educational programs collectively receive about \$3 million each year through the Title 8 Nurse Workforce Development Program, funded through Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations legislation. The AANA requests that the FY2018 budget for Title 8 be increased to \$244 million to help fund additional competitively awarded nurse anesthesia educational program development and expansion grants. This amount is \$15 million over FY2017 levels, and is the same as Congress provided in FY2010. Demand for nurse anesthesia services is anticipated to continue growing as the U.S. population ages. Within Title 8, the Advanced Nursing Education Program should be provided at least \$66 million, up from \$64.5 million in FY2017. 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 8 Program Authorization** — Though under-funded, the Title 8 Nurse 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 \$244 million for APRN and CRNA workforce development appropriations under Title 8, including at least \$66 million for advanced nursing education and for nurse anesthesia education. Support reauthorization of the Title 8 program by cosponsoring HR 959.