



Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.]

The Issue

The Nursing Workforce Development programs are referenced in Washington DC as Title VIII (Public Health Service Act [142 U.S.C. 296 et seq.]). They have been crucial for the development of the current nursing workforce and will be vital to the development of the future-nursing workforce to meet the ever-increasing healthcare needs of the American public.

The Research

The Nurse Training Act of 1964 was an opportunity for President Lyndon B. Johnson and the U.S. Congress to recognize the importance of the role of nurses in their care providing role and the importance of being able to recruit top talent into the nursing profession. The 1960s was a point in time when the country was experiencing a shortage of nurses to provide care for a growing population resulting in unfilled nursing positions and closure of hospital services. President Johnson signed one of his most important pieces of legislation into law on September 4, 1964.¹

The Nursing Workforce Development programs continue to be important for the education of nursing and faculty. Title VIII programs fund institutions educating nurses to practice in areas of greatest necessity in rural and medically underserved communities. Title VIII programs provides incentives to increase retention of the nursing workforce through innovative loan forgiveness programs for nurses and faculty providing clinical nursing education.¹

Programs include:

1. Advanced Education Nursing
AEN Traineeship and Nurse Anesthetist Traineeship
2. Nursing Workforce Diversity
3. Nurse Education Practice Quality and Retention
4. Nurse Corps Scholarships
5. Nurse Faculty Loan Program
6. Comprehensive Geriatric Education
(This program may be rolled into another fund focused on geriatrics.)

Current Legislation

The Title VII funding needs to be requested every year as part of the President's budget that is presented each February.

The Nursing Community which is a coalition of over 60 nursing organizations (NANN and NANNP are members) is coordinated by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing and works collaboratively with many organizations, lobbyists, and members of Congress to advocate for the funding needed for the program. They have been asking for approximately 200 million dollars annually.

The Nursing Community reports that on December 16, 2015, the Senate passed by a vote of 65 to 33, and the House passed by a vote of 316 to 113 a Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 omnibus* (*A bill which covers numerous programs)(H.R.2029). On December 18, 2015, President Obama signed into law the FY 2016 Consolidated Appropriations Act (Public Law No 114-113). The \$1.1 trillion spending package will fund the federal government through the end of the fiscal year (September 30, 2016). In this Omnibus, the Nursing Workforce Development programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act) would receive a total of \$229.472 million (a difference of \$2.15 million over FY 2015). Additionally, the National Institutes of Health would receive an increase of approximately \$2 billion over FY 2015, and within this, the National Institute of Nursing Research would receive \$146.485 million (increase of \$5.5 million over FY 2015).²

The Administration reported that the President's Budget should be released on time, meeting the deadline of the first Monday in February, February 1, 2016. The Office of Management and Budget reported in January 2016, that there was no need for sequestration* (*mandatory spending cuts) adjustments in the FY 2016 budget. However, it is likely sequestration adjustments will be seen in the FY 2017 Budget.²

Recommendations

Support Title VIII reauthorization-funding requests at any and every opportunity.

Reference

1. <http://advocay.aone.org/title-viii-celebrating-50-years-nursing-workforce-development-programs-0>
2. <http://www.nurisngcommunity.org>
3. <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/government-affairs/2015-Title-VIII-Brochure.pdf>