



2014 YEAR IN REVIEW

The Nursing Community (NC) is a coalition of 61 national nursing organizations committed to improving the health and health care of our nation by collaborating to support Registered Nurses (RNs) and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs). Collectively, the NC represents over one million RNs, APRNs, nurse researchers, nurse faculty, and nursing students. The following report summarizes the NC's 2014 engagement, accomplishments, and progress in more detail.

ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

NC Activity	2011	2012	2013	2014
Letters, Statements	22	17	29	17*
Congressional Testimony	2	2	2	3
Congressional/ Administration Meetings	3	3	1	1
Receptions/Events	2	2	2	2
Webinars	0	0	2	2
NC Member Organizations	55	57	59	61
Friends of the NC	0	2	2	3
Twitter Followers	-	-	-	92

**8 letters did not make NC majority.*

On average this year, NC letters were sent with 47 signatures. The most successful sign-on (with exception to the automatic sign-on mechanism for thank you/congratulatory letters) was the letter regarding the Veterans Health Administration's Nursing Handbook with 53 signatures.

LETTERS AND STATEMENTS

2 Appropriations Advocacy Initiatives

Advocacy

November 11, 2014 - [letter](#) urged the House and Senate LHHS-ED Appropriations Subcommittees to fully support the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act [42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.]) and the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR- one of the 27 Institutes and Centers at the National Institutes of Health) in FY 2015.
Signed by 47 NC Organizations



Advocacy

April 2, 2014 - [letter](#) to the U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS-ED) requesting \$251 million for the Nursing Workforce Development programs, \$150 million for the National Institute of Nursing, and \$20 million in authorized funding for the Nurse-Managed Health Clinics (Title III of the Public Health Service Act) in FY2015.

Signed by 48 NC Organizations

2 Legislative Advocacy Initiatives

Advocacy

March 14, 2014 - [letter](#) to Representative Jim McDermott (D-WA) expressing support for H.R. 3833, which would eliminate the provision in the Affordable Care Act [P.L. 111-148] that requires physicians to document the face to face encounters of nurse practitioners (NPs), clinical nurse specialists (CNSs), and physician assistants (PAs) when ordering certain durable medical equipment for their Medicare patients. By removing this requirement so that NPs, CNSs, and PAs can continue to document their face to face encounters without a physician's signature, this legislation would eliminate an unnecessary, costly, and burdensome barrier facing Medicare patients who need necessary durable medical equipment to insure their safe and timely care.

Signed by 41 NC Organizations

Outcome

H.R. 3833 To amend title XVIII of Social Security Act to modify the Medicare durable medical equipment face-to-face encounter documentation requirement had 31 cosponsors at the end of the 113th Congress.

Advocacy

September 24, 2014 - [letters](#) to Senators Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Patty Murray (D-WA) expressing support for the Ensuring Access to Primary Care for Women & Children Act (S. 2694). The legislation would sustain the temporary Medicaid and CHIP payment rate through 2016.

Signed by 45 NC Organizations

Outcome

S. 2694 was referred to the Committee on Finance and had 13 additional cosponsors at the end of the 113th Congress.

2 Letters Regarding Veterans Health Administration

February 5, 2014 - [letter](#) urging Representatives not to sign a Dear Colleague letter being circulated by Representatives Michael Grimm (R-NY) and Ann Kirkpatrick (D-AZ) that opposes the Veterans Health Administration's Nursing Handbook modifications that would allow APRNs to serve as full practice providers.

Signed by 53 NC Organizations



June 4, 2014 - [letter](#) to Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs Sloan D. Gibson reiterating unwavering support for the Veterans Administration's work to modernize the Veterans Health Administration's (VHA) Nursing Handbook and allow advance practice registered nurses practice to the full extent of their education and training. The letter also urged Acting Secretary Gibson to advance the approval process of this modification.
Signed by 51 NC Organizations

1 Letter of Support

October 9, 2014 - [letter](#) to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Director Dr. Richard Kronick, expressing support of the continued presence of designated nursing position, formally the Senior Advisor of Nursing, at AHRQ.
Signed by 49 NC Organizations

1 Statement

October 24, 2014 – the NC released a [statement](#) regarding the focus and response on the Ebola Virus Disease in the United States and that the devastating outbreak in West Africa address patient, health provider, and community protection.
Signed by 51 NC Organizations

7 Thank you & Congratulatory Letters

February 20, 2014 - [letter](#) thanking Rear Admiral Kerry Paige Nessler for her steadfast dedication to improving America's health during her tenure as the Chief Nurse Officer (CNO) of the United States Public Health Service (USPHS).
Signed by 49 NC Organizations

February 20, 2014 - [letter](#) welcoming the newly appointed Chief Nurse Officer of the United States Public Health Service, Rear Admiral Sylvia Trent-Adams.
Signed by 49 NC Organizations

June 6, 2014 - [letter](#) to former Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human services Kathleen Sebelius thanking her for her service.
Signed by 43 NC Organizations

June 12, 2014 - [letters](#) to Representatives Richard Hanna (R-NY) and Lois Capps (D-CA), as well as Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR), for their leadership in spearheading the Dear Colleague letters that supported funding for Title VIII in FY 2015. Representatives Lois Capps (D-CA) and Richard Hanna (R-NY) circulated a letter requesting strong support for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs, which garnered 92 signatures. Senator Merkley's letter requested \$251 million and garnered 29 signatures.
Signed by 43 NC Organizations

July 24, 2014 - [letter](#) congratulating newly appointed Secretary of Health and Human Services Sylvia Mathews Burwell.

Signed by 49 NC Organizations

September 12, 2014 - [letter](#) congratulating Donna Hart Gage, PhD, RN, NE-BC, on her appointment as Chief Nursing Officer for the Veterans Health Administration at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Signed by 60 NC Organizations

November 20, 2014 - [letter](#) congratulating Dr. Linda Spoonster Schwartz on her confirmation as the Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning for

the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Signed by 60 NC Organizations



Dr. Donna Hart Gage, Chief Nursing Officer for the Veterans Health Administration, with NC member Dr. Peggy Wilmoth, Dean at Georgia State University, School of Nursing.

CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY

On **March 28, 2014** the NC submitted [testimony](#) to the House LHHS-ED Appropriations Subcommittee respectfully requesting funding for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs, NINR, and NMHCs. These funds would help ensure our nation's population received the highest-quality nursing service possible.

On **May 23, 2014**, the NC submitted [testimony](#) to the Senate LHHS-ED Appropriations Subcommittee. The NC respectfully requested funding for three key nursing programs: the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs, NINR, and NMHCs. The testimony reinforced the critical nature of funding for these programs and their necessity to ensure America's patients continue to receive high-quality, cost-effective care.

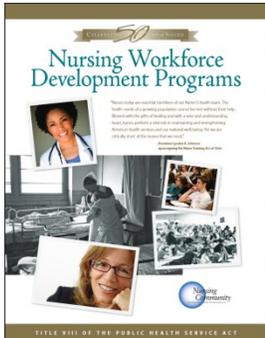
On **November 7, 2014**, the NC submitted [testimony](#) to the Senate Appropriations Committee regarding the *Full Committee Hearing on the U.S. Government Response to the Ebola* outbreak that took place on November 12, 2014.

MEETINGS

On **July 24, 2014**, six Nursing Community members met with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to discuss priorities for FY 2016. In FY 2016, many mandatory funding streams created through the Affordable Care Act (i.e. National Health Service Corps and Community Health Centers) will expire and become subject to discretionary funding. NC representatives also discussed underserved areas, the need for nursing faculty, barriers for advanced practice registered nurses, and the Graduate Nurse Education demonstration program.

EVENTS

50th Anniversary of Title VIII



On **September 8-9, 2014**, the Nursing Community coalition, in collaboration with the House and Senate Nursing Caucuses, hosted an event to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs. Leadership from 31 of the coalition’s member organizations traveled to Washington, DC to participate in this occasion.

The event began with a welcome luncheon at the American Organization of Nurse Executives offices on September 8. Following the luncheon, a briefing titled “Supporting the Health of America: Fifty Years of Bolstering the Nursing Workforce” was held on Capitol Hill in collaboration with the Senate Nursing Caucus and

featured Mary Beth Bigley, DrPH, MSN, APRN, Director of the Division of Nursing and Public Health, Health Resources and Services Administration; Margaret Wilmoth, PhD, MSS, RN, FAAN, Dean and Professor at the Byrdine F. Lewis School of Nursing and Health Professions at Georgia State University; and Kay Gentry, BSN, RN, a Master of Science in Nursing student at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and current Title VIII recipient.



Dr. Mary Beth Bigley, Director of the Division of Nursing and Public Health, HRSA.



Dr. Margaret Wilmoth, Dean and Professor at Georgia State University.



Kay Gentry, nursing student at University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Dr. Bigley provided an overview of the Title VIII programs and how they bolster the nursing workforce and address access to care issues. Dr. Wilmoth shared her perspectives as a former Title VIII recipient and how it led to her successful career in nursing academia leadership and the U.S. Army. Ms. Gentry shared her powerful, personal story of how Title VIII has enabled her to enter into the nursing profession.

On the evening of September 8, the Nursing Community held a reception titled “Honoring America’s Nursing Workforce” on Capitol Hill in collaboration with the House Nursing Caucus. The reception provided an opportunity for nursing leadership to connect with Members of Congress and their staff. Present at the reception were over 50 individuals representing 30 Congressional offices across 21 states from both the House and Senate. The Members of Congress who attended the event included: House Nursing Caucus Co-Chairs Reps. Lois Capps, RN (D-CA) and David Joyce (R-OH); Rep. Walter Jones (R-NC); Rep. Howard Coble (R-NC); Rep. Chaka Fattah (D-PA); and Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT).



House Nursing Caucus Co-Chairs, Representatives David Joyce (R-OH), and Lois Capps (D-CA).

On September 9, representatives from Nursing Community organizations met with Congressional offices to discuss how Title VIII funding makes an impact in their state and across the nation. The Nursing Community’s request for Congressional offices was to support a funding solution that protects discretionary programs, including the Title VIII programs, from further cuts in FY 2015. In total, 24 individuals from NC organizations met with 14 Congressional offices across eight states.

To view all the photos from the event please visit: <https://nctitleviii50thanniversary.shutterfly.com/>

WEBINARS

The Nursing Community hosted two webinars in 2014:

On March 19th, the NC hosted a webinar titled, [*Speaking with One Voice: Coordinated Messages Matter.*](#) This year marked the 50th Anniversary of the Nursing Workforce Development programs. President Lyndon Johnson signed these programs into law through the Nurse Training Act on September 4, 1964. **Dr. Suzanne Miyamoto** (American Association of Colleges of Nursing) addressed the history, appropriations, and importance of Title VIII and the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR), as well as their impact on advancing nursing education and research. In addition, Dr. Miyamoto provided insight on how the broader nursing community can come together as one voice to advocate for nursing education, research, and practice, including the Title VIII programs and NINR. **Ms. Jamie Ware** (National Nursing Centers Consortium) discussed the history and importance of Nurse-Managed Health Clinics (NMHCs Title III of PHS) in providing access to care for underserved populations, and how these sites are integral to clinical training and practice for advanced practice registered nurses. **80 members registered for the webinar.**

On October 9th, the NC hosted a webinar titled [*The 2014 Midterm Federal Elections: What Nurses Need to Know.*](#) **Mr. Wade Delk** (American Society for Pain Management Nursing) and **Mr. Dave Mason** (National Nursing Centers Consortium) discussed how to stay informed of the election process and how potential outcomes may impact nursing and healthcare policy. Attendees learned how to maximize political tools, become informed voters, and how to ensure the profession’s voice is heard in the upcoming election. **100 members registered for the webinar.**

NEW MEMBERS



The Nursing Community proudly extended its [membership](#) to include 61 nursing organizations. The newest member of the Nursing Community is: [Association for Radiologic & Imaging Nursing](#)



The [Friends of the Nursing Community](#) (FNC) is a broad-based collaboration that helps to promote America's health through nursing care. FNC partners with the Nursing Community to advocate for sound public policy that improves the health and health care of the nation with a specific focus on the unique contributions of Registered Nurses (RNs) and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs).

In 2014, the NC was happy to welcome one new friend, [The Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research](#).

NEW POLICY

This year, the Nursing Community approved a new policy for any thank you or congratulatory letters. All NC members are listed as signatories on these letters unless they opt out. This will help bolster NC representation on these types of letters. The new policy is reflected in the NC Structure Documented last updated on August 5, 2014.

WEBSITE



The number of session visits on the [Nursing Community website](#) is up by 16.06% from last year, and the number of users is up by 8.57%. Located within the webpage are all of the letters, events, and various NC initiatives. New this year was the addition of a members-only page. This page stores meeting minutes and other documents (such as letter that do not make a 2/3 majority) for Nursing Community representatives.

TWITTER

In May of this year, the Nursing Community created a Twitter account in an effort to build relationships with the healthcare field, Congress, the media, and the public, and to share information. The NC's Twitter account allows the coalition to dialogue about pressing issues. The NC's use of Twitter reflects the coalition's agreed upon views and positions based on previous initiatives or topics relevant to issues supported.



At the end of 2014, the NC Twitter account had 92 followers. The top five interest areas of NC followers were:

- Health News*
- Biotech and Biomedical*
- Pharmacy*
- Elder Care*
- Alternative Care*

The majority of our followers are in the Washington, DC area, followed second by Philadelphia, PA.

For more information and the latest news from the Nursing Community, visit our website: www.thenursingcommunity.org and follow us on Twitter, [@RN_Community](https://twitter.com/RN_Community).