



**U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Full Committee Hearing**

**Testimony of the American Nurses Association Regarding
“U.S. Government Response: Fighting Ebola and Protecting America”**

Wednesday, November 12th, 2:00 p.m.
Dirksen Senate Office Building, SD-G50

Submitted by:

Michelle Artz, Director of Government Affairs
American Nurses Association
8515 Georgia Avenue, Suite 400, Silver Spring, MD 20910
301-628-5098 / 301-628-5348 (fax)

Michelle.Artz@ana.org

The American Nurses Association (ANA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 appropriations. ANA urges you to **immediately act on the Administration’s request for emergency funding related to the Ebola epidemic, fully fund the Title VIII Nurse Workforce Programs, and enact final, omnibus spending legislation for fiscal year 2015 before the end of the calendar year.**

Founded in 1896, ANA is the only full-service professional association representing the interests of the nation’s 3.1 million registered nurses (RNs) and advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs-including certified nurse-midwives, nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, and certified registered nurse anesthetists) through its state nurses associations, and organizational affiliates. ANA advances the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting the rights of nurses in the workplace, and projecting a positive and realistic view of nursing.

ANA urges you to **consider three significant requests:**

1. **Reinvest in America’s public health infrastructure** – Nurses have a proud history of providing compassionate, quality care for patients with infectious diseases, and are at the front line of responding to the current Ebola virus disease outbreak. The Administration’s \$4.64 billion emergency funding request appropriately focuses on both our domestic and international needs. The Ebola outbreak in West Africa is a public health emergency that could not have been foreseen. To best protect Americans, we must stop the disease at its source. ANA would also urge that this funding request not be subject to current budget caps, so as not to reduce funding for other critical public health programs.

In addition, ANA requests that the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) and the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) be funded at the 2006 level provided for in the Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA). PHEP supports public health departments to strengthen their abilities to respond to all types of public health incidents and build more resilient communities. HPP provides leadership and funding through grants and cooperative agreements to States, territories, and eligible municipalities to improve surge capacity and enhance community and hospital preparedness for public health emergencies.

- 2. Fully fund the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs and Nurse-Managed Health Clinics** — We are grateful to the Committee for your past commitment to Title VIII funding, and we understand the immense fiscal pressures the Committee is facing. However, ANA respectfully requests your support **for full funding of the Nursing Workforce Development programs** authorized under Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act in FY 2014.

A sufficient supply of nurses is critical in providing our nation's population with quality health care now and into the future. Registered Nurses (RNs) and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) are the backbone of hospitals, community clinics, school health programs, home health and long-term care programs, and serve patients in many other roles and settings including combating Ebola in the U.S. and abroad.

The BLS projections explain a need for 495,500 replacements in the nursing workforce, bringing the total number of job openings for nurses due to growth and replacements to 1.2 million by 2020. A shortage of this magnitude would be twice as large as any shortage experienced by this country since the 1960s. Cuts to Title VIII funding would be detrimental to the health care system and the patients we serve.

- 3. Pass omnibus legislation to complete appropriations for fiscal year 2015** – No country runs effectively on autopilot. The annual budget and appropriations process is vital to the American government's ability to respond to the ever changing challenges that Americans face. During the lame duck session, Congress must pass omnibus legislation to make the funding adjustments that reflect changing priorities.

Thank you for your time and your attention to this matter.