

June 6, 2019

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Chairman  
United States Senate  
Committee on Health, Education,  
Labor & Pensions  
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
United States Senate  
Committee on Health, Education,  
Labor & Pensions  
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Burr  
United States Senate  
217 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeff Merkley  
United States Senate  
313 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander, Ranking Member Murray, Senator Burr and Senator Merkley:

On behalf of our nearly 5,000 member hospitals, health systems and other health care organizations, and our clinician partners – including more than 270,000 affiliated physicians, 2 million nurses and other caregivers – and the 43,000 health care leaders who belong to our professional membership groups, the American Hospital Association (AHA) writes to support S. 1399, Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2019. By supporting nursing education, practice, recruitment and retention, this legislation will play a critical role in ensuring that nurses continue to provide high-quality care to patients, including in rural and underserved communities.

The AHA is pleased that all qualified community hospitals would be allowed to participate in the loan repayment program, regardless of tax status, by including S. 1045, Nursing Where It's Needed Act (Nursing WIN Act), originally introduced by Senators Todd Young and Doug Jones. We believe it is critical that communities that are underserved and struggling to recruit nurses have access to this loan repayment program in order to attract new nursing graduates.

We thank you for your leadership on this issue and look forward to passage of the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2019

Sincerely,

/s/

Thomas P. Nickels  
Executive Vice President

