Nursing Education and Nursing Research Appropriations Request for FY2016

The International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN) supports $244 million in FY2016 funding for nursing education programs under Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act. IAFN also supports $150 million in FY2016 funding for nursing-related research within the National Institute for Nursing Research (NINR). The collective Nursing Community supports these funding levels.

Background
A forensic nurse is a nurse who provides specialized care for patients who are victims and/or perpetrators of trauma (both intentional and unintentional). Forensic Nurses are NURSES first and foremost. However, the specialized role of forensic nurses goes far beyond medical care; forensic nurses also have a specialized knowledge of the legal system and skills in injury identification, evaluation and documentation. After attending to a patient’s immediate medical needs, a forensic nurse often collects evidence, provides medical testimony in court, and consults with legal authorities.

Victims of violence and abuse require care from a health professional that is trained to treat the trauma associated with the wrong that has been done to them—be it sexual assault, interpersonal violence, neglect, or other forms of intentional injury. Forensic nurses are also a critical resource for anti-violence efforts. They collect evidence and give testimony that can be used in a court of law to apprehend or prosecute perpetrators who commit violent and abusive acts.
Nursing Education Programs
Congress has authorized several important nursing education programs under Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act. These programs are vital to students, faculty and the educational programs themselves in training all levels of nurses from associate degree through post-graduate. Funding for these programs helps establish new programs, aids in the growth of existing programs, and provides tuition support for nursing students. Without strong funding for these programs nursing will not be able to keep up with the growing demand for nursing services, to include forensic nursing.

National Institute of Nursing Research
Clinical research remains an important component for improving our nation’s health care system. NINR is dedicated to improving the health and health care of Americans through the funding of nursing research and research training. Its mission is to promote and improve the health of individuals, families, communities, and populations. This mission is accomplished through support of research in a number of science areas. Among those areas of research are chronic and acute diseases, health promotion and maintenance, symptom management, health disparities, caregiving, and self-management, to name a few. NINR also supports the training of new investigators who bring new ideas and help to further expand research programs. The ultimate goal of this research is dissemination into clinical practice and into the daily lives of individuals and families.

Please contact Patrick Cooney at Patrick@federalgrp.com or at 202-347-0034 x101 with any questions you might have regarding this issue.