

Appropriations Request – Nurse Corps Scholarship and Loan Repayment

FY 2025 Labor Health and Human Services, Title II – Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Health Workforce, Nursing Workforce Development, Nurse Corps

Request: Support an increase in funding for this program (\$20 million) and report language that of the funds available for this purpose, 5% to establish and fund a nurse corp program for RNs who commit to work in a long-term care facility.

FY 25 Recommended Funding Level: \$108,635,000 for Nurse Corps

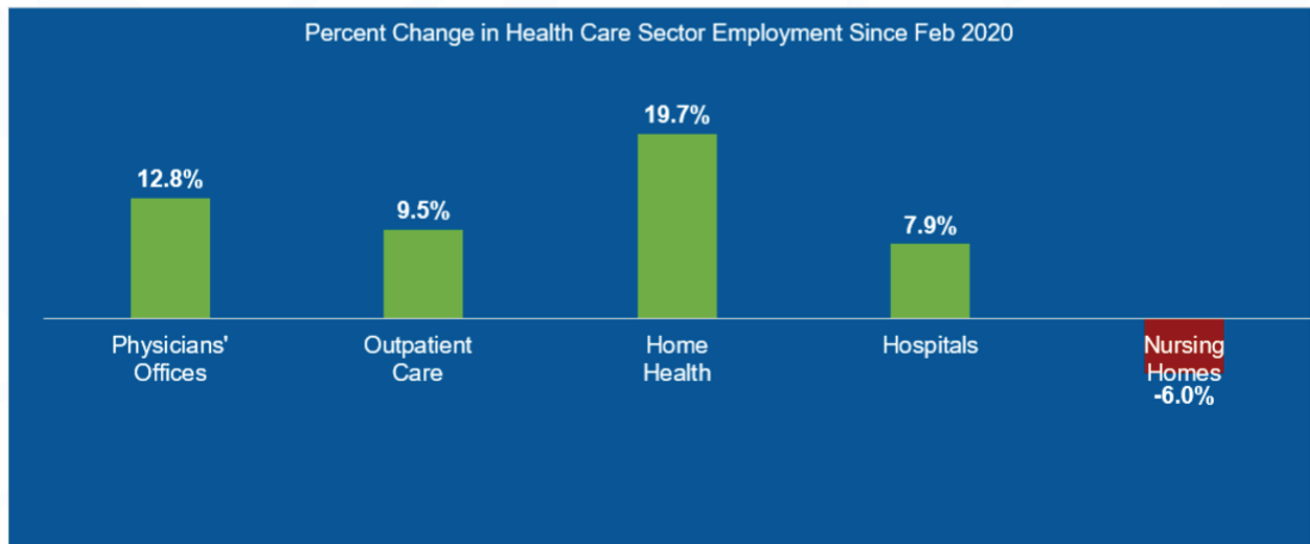
Report language:

Nurse Corps Scholarship and Loan Repayment. — The Committee includes \$108,635,000 for Nurse Corps, \$20,000,000 above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and the fiscal year 2023 budget request. This program supports scholarships and loan repayment assistance for nurses and nursing students committed to working in communities with inadequate access to care. **The Committee notes a critical need in workforce development for Registered Nurses, particularly those RNs who serve in the long-term care workforce.**

Justification:

According to data available via the BLS (Bureau of Labor Statistics), the long term care industry has faced the worst job loss among all healthcare providers throughout the pandemic. Nearly 2.5 million people in the U.S. are served by long term care services including in skilled nursing and assisted living communities. Generally, these healthcare settings have requirements of minimum coverage from skilled healthcare professionals such as Registered Nurses.

NURSING HOMES: WORST IMPACTED THAN ANY OTHER HEALTH CARE SECTOR



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) February 2020 – December 2024

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Registered nurses require at least two or more full time years of schooling and depending on the state 10-50 hours of professional development in order to maintain the RN license. Oftentimes, this education costs aspiring RNs **\$20,000 to \$80,000 to attain** and then additional ongoing costs to maintain the RN license with continuing education.

As nursing homes and assisted living communities are both significantly below the pre-pandemic levels of employment, we request that HRSA be directed by the Appropriations Committee to prioritize long-term care serving. Availability of skilled health care professionals is important to quality of life and quality of care for residents of skilled nursing or assisted living communities.



For further information, please reach out to Michael Bassett at mbassett@ahca.org
www.ahcancal.org



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