



## Priority Issues, Legislative Asks, and Data Points

### Support Nursing Education and Essential Research

#### Legislative Request/Ask

**Support robust funding** for Title VIII Nursing Education and Workforce Programs, the National Institutes for Nursing Research (NINR), and dedicated palliative care research in Fiscal Year (FY) 2027.

- \$610 million for all Title VIII programs
- \$215 million for the NINR
- \$12.5 million for the National Institutes of Aging (NIA) for the multi-Institute, multi-Center Consortium for Palliative Care Research Across the Lifespan

#### Bill Status

The House [bill](#) approved by the Appropriations Committee includes an increase for Title VIII programs as well as funding for NINR. The [Senate](#) has not yet introduced FY 2027 Labor-HHS appropriations legislation. In early September, Congress passed a continuing resolution to extend the current appropriations bill until December 2026.

#### Key Message

Continued funding for Title VIII programs, NINR, and palliative care research would promote nursing education and training and add to the evidence-based research that helps improve access to and quality of care for people living with serious illness.

#### Data Points

##### *Nursing Education and Workforce*

- According to [Nursing Workforce Projections, 2023-2038](#) published by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in December 2025, federal authorities project a shortage of 267-330 full-time RNs by 2028. (Source: [American Association of Colleges of Nursing \(AACN\)](#))
- The 10 states with the largest projected nursing shortage in 2038 are California (22%), North Carolina (20%), Georgia (20%), Michigan (18%), Washington (17%), Maryland (16%), Oklahoma (13%), South Carolina (12%), Louisiana (11%) and Virginia (8%). Data for each state may be accessed through HRSA's [Workforce Projections Dashboard](#). (Source: [American Association of Colleges of Nursing \(AACN\)](#))

#### Additional Resources

- [National Advisory Council on Nurse Education and Practice | HRSA](#)
- [NINR - National Institute of Nursing Research | National Institute of Nursing Research](#)
- [Face of Academic Nursing](#)
- [Title VIII Fact Sheet June 2026](#)
- [NINR One-Pager March 2026](#)

##### *Palliative Care*

- At least 13 million Americans are living with a serious illness. (Source: [Center to Advance Palliative Care](#) (CAPC))
- Palliative care significantly improves quality of life while reducing unnecessary health care utilization and spending. Availability of palliative care varies greatly by geographic region. (Source: [CAPC](#))
- Continuing to support the palliative care research appropriation included in previous years would continue work begun at NIA with FY 2024 palliative care funding and allow the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to continue the five-year plan created in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to develop the consortium, a specialized center to provide resources, expertise and coordination to advance innovative, high-quality research on palliative care for people living with serious illness.

#### **Additional Resources**

- [What is Palliative Care? | Patient Quality of Life Coalition](#)
- [The Value of Palliative Care - Center to Advance Palliative Care \(CAPC\) | Center to Advance Palliative Care](#)
- [CAPC's 2024 Serious Illness Scorecard - Explore State Ratings](#)

## **Modernize the Advanced Practice Nursing Workforce**

#### **Legislative Request/Ask**

**Cosponsor the Improving Care and Access to Nurses (ICAN) Act** ([H.R.1317](#)/[S. 575](#)) which removes outdated regulatory barriers by allowing nurse practitioners—in states where they are legally authorized—to certify terminal illness, significantly reducing delays in vital end-of-life care.

#### **Bill Status**

Senate bill referred to Senate Finance Committee: House bill referred to House Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means Committees.

#### **Key Message**

APRNs provide much of the care Medicare and Medicaid patients require, including hospice and palliative care, and care in rural and underserved communities. Removing existing Medicare and Medicaid barriers that prevent APRNs from practicing to the full extent of their education and clinical preparation would improve patient access to high-quality, cost-effective care.

#### **Data Points**

- As of 2025, more than 460,000 NPs were providing care across the U.S., a 7 percent increase from 2023 (Source: [AANP](#))
- In states where they are authorized to do so, nurse practitioners can act as a hospice patient's attending physician but even as attending physicians, NPs are unable to certify or recertify

terminal illness—this must be done by the hospice medical director or physician designee.  
(Source: [CMS](#) Pub. 100-04, Medicare Claims Processing)

- Approximately 40% of Medicare beneficiaries receive their health care from nurse practitioners.  
Source: [AANP](#)

### Additional Resources

- [Nurse Practitioner: My Patient Qualified for Hospice. I Couldn't Get Her There](#)
- [ICAN - Eliminating Barriers to High-Quality Health Care](#)
- [Improving-Care-and-Access-to-Nurses ICAN Act Issue-Brief.pdf](#)

## Secure Long-Term Nursing Workforce Pipeline Investments

### Legislative Request/Ask

**Cosponsor the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act** ([H.R. 3593/S.1874](#)) to ensure that community clinics and hospice providers can train and retain next-generation specialists.

### Bill Status

Approved by Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. Companion bill introduced in House.

### Key Message

[Title VIII programs](#) support nursing education and strengthen the nursing workforce by helping to address current and projected shortages, funding clinical education and preceptorships, fostering partnerships between nursing schools and health care facilities.

### Data Points

- The need for registered nurses is projected to grow around 5% from 2024 to 2034, with about 189,100 openings annually across the decade, and for most APRNs by 35%. (Source: [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) Occupational Outlook Handbook)

## Protect Clinicians from Workplace Violence

### Legislative Request/Ask

**Cosponsor the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act** ([H.R. \(2531/S.1232\)](#)) which would require the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the federal agency in charge of workplace safety, to finalize and enforce workplace violence prevention standards for health care employers.

### Bill Status

This legislation passed the House (twice) with bipartisan support. In the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress, the House bill has been referred to the House Committees on Education and Workforce, Energy and Commerce, and Ways and Means, and the Senate bill has been referred to the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee.

### Key Message

When nurses do not feel safe at work, the entire health care system suffers.

### Data Points

- **1 in 4 nurses** reports being assaulted on the job, and **less than 60%** of incidents are **reported**. (Source: [American Nurses Association survey, 2019](#))
- There was a 30% increase in workplace violence across all health care facility types between 2011 and 2021/2022, and the fields of health care and social assistance experienced the highest counts and annualized incidence rates for workplace violence of any private industry sector over the two-year period from 2021-2022. (Source: [Bureau of Labor Statistics Fact Sheet on Workplace Violence, 2021-2022](#))

### Additional Resources:

- [ANA toolkit](#)
- [ANA issue brief](#)

## Improving Patient Access to Comprehensive, High Quality, and Cost-Effective Hospice and Palliative Care

### Legislative Request/Ask

**Cosponsor the Hospice Care Accountability, Reform, and Enforcement (CARE) Act** ([H.R. 7966/S. 4118](#)), which strengthens the hospice framework through targeted payment reforms and program integrity measures while authorizing qualified nurse practitioners to independently certify terminal illness to streamline patient care.

### Bill Status

This legislation has been introduced in both the House and Senate. The Senate bill was referred to the Senate Finance Committee. The House bill was referred to the House Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means Committees.

### Key Message

Access to high-quality hospice care should be available to all patients who need it, and provisions in the Hospice CARE Act would improve the integrity of hospice care provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

### Data Points

- About 1.8 million Medicare beneficiaries receive hospice care each year, and Medicare pays about \$27.5 billion annually for this care. (Source: [Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Inspector General](#).)
- High-quality, comprehensive hospice care has been shown to control pain, improve quality of life, reduced physical and emotional distress for patients and families and reduce total cost of care. [Value of Hospice | NORC at the University of Chicago](#)

### Additional Resources

- [CMS Hospice Information Center](#)
- [Hospice Care Act Section by Section](#)
- [Hospice Care Barriers for NPs: How to Overcome Them \(2026\) | NursePractitionerOnline.com](#)
- [Nurse Practitioner: My Patient Qualified for Hospice. I Couldn't Get Her There | The Examiner News](#)