May 13, 2021

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator

The Honorable Bob Menendez
United States Senator

The Honorable Bob Portman
United States Senator

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

Dear Senators:

Our national coalition of hospital-based nursing schools are writing in strong support of your legislation, S._____, the TRAIN Act (*Technical Reset to Advance the Instruction of Nurses* (TRAIN) *Act*). Amid a growing nursing shortage – and especially during the COVID-19 pandemic -- these schools are a desperately needed pipeline of highly skilled nurses to hospitals, nursing homes, community and home-based services and other providers across the nation.

Approximately 120 hospital-based nursing schools receive financial support from CMS Medicare pass-through funds to our host hospitals that support nursing and allied health education programs.

On August 21, 2020, CMS issued instructions to Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) to recalculate the Part C components of nursing and allied health (NAH) and direct graduate medical education (DGME) payments to hospitals for calendar years 2010 through 2019. This applies to all unsettled cost reports plus those settled within the past three years.

Because of an agency oversight, CMS did not make annual updates to the DGME Part C payments that fund the NAH Part C payment pool of up to $60 million annually. To account for the missed updates, CMS has started recouping payments previously made to NAH programs since 2010. For some facilities, this may lead to a loss of as much as 70% of past payments, with additional reductions going forward. This significant funding cut will likely close some of our schools and will cause most of us to educate fewer students of nursing and allied health professions.

CMS understands the negative impact this will have on these nursing colleges, but it has no authority beyond recouping the payments.

The TRAIN Act repairs this technical regulatory glitch and will allow our schools of nursing and allied health to continue the important work of training America's nurses and allied health professionals.

We applaud your leadership and stand ready to work with you in securing passage of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Delaware
Margaret H. Rollins School of Nursing

Florida
AdventHealth University

Illinois
Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing & Health Sciences
Saint Anthony College of Nursing
Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing
St. John's College

Iowa
Allen College

New Jersey
Holy Name Medical Center, Sr. Claire Tynan School of Nursing
JFK Muhlenberg Harold B. School of Nursing
Dorothy A. Snyder School of Nursing and Medical Imaging

Maine
Maine College of Health Professions

Massachusetts
Signature Healthcare Brockton Hospital School of Nursing

Missouri
Cox College
Research College of Nursing

Nebraska
Bryan College of Health Sciences

New Jersey
Our Lady of Lourdes School of Nursing

New York
Pomeroy College of Nursing at Crouse Hospital
St. Joseph's College of Nursing
St. Peter's Health Partners Nursing College

North Carolina
Cabarrus College of Health Sciences

Carolinas College of Health Sciences

Ohio
Aultman College
Firelands Regional Medical Center School of Nursing
Good Samaritan College of Nursing and Health Science
Kettering College
Mercy College of Ohio
The Christ College of Nursing and Health Sciences
Trinity Health System School of Nursing

Pennsylvania
Conemaugh School of Nursing
Heritage Valley Kennedy School of Nursing
Joseph F. McCloskey School of Nursing
St. Luke's School of Nursing
Washington Health System School of Nursing
Western Pennsylvania Hospital School of Nursing

Virginia
Bon Secours Memorial College of Nursing
Riverside College of Health Careers

West Virginia
St. Mary's School of Nursing