

# Talking Points: The TRAIN Act:

## Supporting Hospital-based Nursing Schools

July 2021

### Key points:

- There are 120 wholly owned hospital-based nursing schools in the United States. They graduate more than 5,000 nurses each year. These nurses usually score on national tests among the top percentile of all nurses in the nation. About a third of these schools serve rural areas.
- These schools are supported financially in part by their sponsoring hospitals through a Medicare-pass-through payment. Those payments amount to about \$108 million each year.
- On August 21, 2020, CMS issued transmittal 10315 (Change Request 11642), to take back approximately \$307 million from these nursing schools (through their host hospitals) and then lower the annual nursing school support payments by millions of dollars.
- Technically, CMS failed to make annual updates to the Direct Graduate Medical Education Part C payments that fund the nursing and allied health Part C payment pool of up to \$60 million annually.
- Some hospital-based nursing schools project losing as much as \$2 million to \$15 million of past payments, with additional payment reductions going forward. This CMS “solution” will result in the closing or scaling back of nursing schools at a time when these health care providers are most needed. Nursing students are actively assisting in the care of Covid patients across the country.
- Hospitals and their nursing schools urge Congress to pass the TRAIN Act this year.

### Action Requested:

Support S.1568 and H.R. 4407 the TRAIN Act. The ***Technical Reset to Advance the Instruction of Nurses (TRAIN) Act*** would ensure hospital-based nursing schools that received funding support from CMS in the past can keep those resources and put them toward training the next generation of nurses without the threat of recoupment. Introduced by U.S. Senators Brown (D-OH) and Capito (R-WV) and U.S. Reps. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE) and Darin LaHood (R-IL).

### From Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH):

- “Even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the United States was facing a nursing shortage, and it is imperative that we continue to support the nation’s current – and future – nursing workforce. But we can’t do that when hospital-based nursing schools’ are threatened by potential funding claw backs during a global pandemic. Our bipartisan legislation provides a solution that ensures our hospital-based nursing programs can focus on what’s important – providing high quality care for patients and training our next generation of nurses – as we continue to combat the ongoing pandemic.”

### From Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE):

- “The current proposal by CMS to claw back federal funding from these programs, which have already had to endure so much throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, is frankly, unacceptable. I’m proud to partner with Rep. LaHood in introducing this bipartisan piece of legislation to ensure that our hospital-based nursing programs can retain the resources they need and deserve.”

----