

Dear:

I am a constituent and a registered nurse, asking you to support the creation of a Nurse Faculty Loan Repayment Grant Program to address Indiana's nursing shortage.

The demand for health care services is growing, as evidenced by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development's Hoosier Hot 50 Jobs list of the fastest-growing professions based on Indiana's expected demand over the next five years, which has registered nurse #1 and licensed practical nurse #6. While demand is growing, more of our nursing workforce is aging into retirement. Over the last decade, the percentage of Indiana registered nurses age 55 or older has grown from 16% to 24%, and the figures for nursing faculty are approximately double.

The ability of Indiana's nursing workforce pipeline to respond to the increases in demand for health care and nurse retirements is hindered by a shortage of faculty. Indiana prelicensure bachelors of science in nursing (BSN) programs **turned away 768 qualified applicants** in 2016, primarily due to a shortage of faculty.

The Nursing Faculty Loan Repayment Grant Program endorsed by the Interim Study Committee on Public Health, Behavioral Health, and Human Services will materially improve the recruitment and retention of nursing faculty in our state. This will enable all Hoosiers to enjoy a healthier future. I look forward to your response on this important issue.

Your constituent,