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9/30/2024

The Honorable Richard Durbin
U.S. Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
U.S. Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Durbin and Murkowski:

On behalf of the Emergency Nurses Association (ENA) and our nearly 50,000 members, I am writing to express our support for S. 2815, the Nursing Faculty Shortage Reduction Act, which would provide new funding support to help nursing schools recruit and retain faculty.

According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, in 2021 nursing schools in the U.S. turned away more than 91,000 applicants for undergraduate and graduate programs. These qualified students were not admitted in part because of an insufficient number of nursing faculty. As colleges and universities reject qualified nursing students, the growing nursing shortage is only made worse. Pay disparity between faculty nurses and practicing nurses is often cited as one of the main causes of the nursing faculty shortage.

The median salary for advanced practice registered nurses is about 38 percent higher than for professors at schools of nursing who hold a master's degree. The Nurse Faculty Shortage Reduction Act, S. 2815, would provide new funding to close this pay gap to encourage the recruitment and retention of qualified nursing educators who will educate the next generation of nurses.

As professionals on the frontlines of our nation's health care system, emergency nurses are critical to providing emergency care, as well as teaching and training tomorrow's emergency nurses. We thank you for introducing this legislation and for your leadership on this critical issue. If you have any questions, please contact Rob Kramer, ENA's Director of Government Relations, at 202-465-4756.

Sincerely,

Chris Dellinger, MBA, BSN, RN, FAEN
2024 ENA President