Chairwoman Janet Howell

Senate Finance and Appropriations Sub-Committee

Chairman Mark Sickles

House Appropriations Committee

Dear Chairwoman Howell and Chairman Sickles,

We respectfully request your support of budget amendment 295 #3h (Delegate Hayes) | 295 #2s (Senator Barker), which will help us ensure an educated and adequate nursing workforce by providing financial incentives for uncompensated preceptors working with advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) students\*.

Currently, there are not enough healthcare providers to meet demand, and the deficit is expected to grow as the United States faces a primary care shortage. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the need for APRNs is expected to grow by 31 percent between 2016 and 2026.

**In 2019, the Virginia Nurses Association surveyed nursing schools in the Commonwealth that offer APRN practitioner degree programs. Each of those programs are experiencing a shortage of preceptors for APRN students and they are being forced to limit enrollment of students based on the lack of available clinical preceptors. According to the schools surveyed, a total of 358 more APRN students could be enrolled annually if additional preceptors were available.**

By simply increasing the availability of preceptors, nursing schools can significantly increase enrollment of APRN students and address the provider shortage. The incentive would be available for uncompensated preceptors, including APRNs, physicians, and physicians’ assistants.

Some proprietary schools are compensating preceptors, increasing the competition for a limited number of clinical opportunities, and making it more difficult for Virginia’s schools to graduate nursing students. Additionally, increasing regulatory requirements and growing demand for their services is making it more difficult for practitioners to volunteer their time to educate students.

By providing relatively minor financial incentives\*\* for practitioners who serve as otherwise uncompensated preceptors for APRN students, we can increase access to care, address the primary care shortage, handle mental health crises, and manage chronic diseases. All of these factors are crucial in improving the health and wellness of all Virginians.

Thank you for your support of the nursing profession.

Sincerely,