



March 11, 2013

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training
United States House of Representatives
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Foxx:

On behalf of the American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE), we applaud your efforts to champion the *Supporting Knowledge and Investing in Lifelong "Skills Act"* (H.R. 803). In this austere fiscal environment, it is vital that we take a balanced approach to workforce development. An adequate, diverse, culturally competent and well-distributed supply of health care professionals, including nurses, is indispensable to our nation's health care infrastructure.

AONE is the national professional organization for nurses who design, facilitate and manage care. With more than 8,700 members, AONE is the leading voice of nursing leadership in health care. AONE is a subsidiary of the American Hospital Association. AONE's membership encompasses nursing leaders in all venues of patient care delivery from major academic health centers to small rural critical access hospitals including nursing leaders in commercial, academic and research settings. AONE is committed to improving the health of our nation through collaboration and support of all registered nurses (RNs) and advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs).

Nurses play a vital role in the delivery of health care. The services nurses provide are directly linked to the availability, cost and quality of health care services. The demand for nurses continues to grow with the aging patient population in need of nursing care is expected to exceed the number of available RNs and APRNs. Our nation must maintain a vibrant workforce in the educational pipeline. Without decisive intervention, Nursing workforce shortages threaten the ability to care for patients and communities.

The SKILLS Act seeks to streamline federal workforce development programs. AONE applauds your leadership on this legislation and looks forward to working with you to ensure its passage. Should you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jo Ann Webb, Senior Director for Federal Relations and Policy at (202) 626-2321 or jwebb@aha.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle A. Janney".

Michelle Janney, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN
2013 AONE President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pamela A. Thompson".

Pamela A. Thompson, MS, RN, CENP, FAAN
Chief Executive Officer/Senior Vice President
for Nursing, American Hospital Association