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American Academy of Nursing Applauds New HHS Funding to Support Nurses

WASHINGTON – Citing the aging population, nurse retirement and other factors, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Bill Corr announced Wednesday that HHS will release \$13.4 million for loan repayments to nurses who agree to practice in facilities with critical shortages and for schools of nursing to provide loans to students who will become nurse faculty.

AAN CEO Pat Ford-Roegner, MSW, RN, FAAN, commended the release of the funds: “This money is critical not only to retaining nurses during the current and future shortage, but also to creating the faculty necessary to teach future generations of nurses needed to care for our aging and increasingly medically-complex population.”

The funds, stemming from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, will be administered by HHS’ Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) through the Nurse Education Loan Repayment Program (NELRP) and the Nurse Faculty Loan Program (NFLP). The NELRP funds, which are awarded competitively, will help 100 registered nurses pay their nursing education debts in exchange for two years of service at facilities with a critical shortage of nurses. The NFLP funds will go to schools of nursing to support the training of 500 masters and doctoral nursing students who plan to become nurse faculty after completing their education and who then serve four years as full-time nursing faculty at a school of nursing.

The American Academy of Nursing (www.aannet.org) anticipates and tracks national and international trends in health care, while addressing resulting issues of health care knowledge and policy. The Academy’s mission is to serve the public and nursing profession by advancing health policy and practice through the generation, synthesis, and dissemination of nursing knowledge

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