For Immediate Release

March 20, 2017

National Black Nurses Association Alarmed about the President’s FY 2018 Budget Proposal

Alarmed over President Trump’s FY 2018 proposed budget, National Black Nurses Association President Dr. Eric J. Williams expressed his concern about the negative impact the cuts will have on the health of our Nation’s citizens. “The draconian cuts in the health budget will only serve to weaken our health care infrastructure, causing untoward harm to patients, the public health systems that protect our patients and the scientific research and innovations needed to keep America healthy.”

Continued investments in nursing education are paramount to ensuring the best health workforce – that we have enough nurses to take care of ALL patients and to meet future demands. We need to make sure that there are enough nursing faculty, nurse research scientists and physical classroom space to educate and prepare the next generation of nurse clinicians and nurse leaders.

“The National Black Nurses Association is calling on the Congress to reject this proposal. Cutting $403 million from nurse workforce programs will cause irreparable harm, increasing the nurse shortage, decreasing the number of nursing faculty and slicing the ability to recruit new nurses into the nursing profession.”

Moreover, steep cuts in the NIH budget and folding the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality into NIH will only serve to significantly slow down America’s ability to make new discoveries to improve and save lives.

NBNA stands ready to fight to restore funding to crucial and critical funding to advance the profession of nursing and the health infrastructure of our Nation. Our patients need nurses. NBNA will continue to advocate to advocate for increased investments in nursing workforce development and the health of ALL of our Nation’s citizens.