Charles N. Kahn III  
President and CEO

May 9, 2019

The Honorable Jeff Merkley  
United States Senate  
313 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Burr  
United States Senate  
217 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Merkley and Burr:

On behalf of the Federation of American Hospitals (FAH), I am pleased to offer our strong support for S. 1399, Title VIII Nursing Reauthorization Act of 2019. The introduction of this legislation during National Nurses Week further demonstrates Congress’ recognition and celebration of the nation’s 4 million registered nurses that are on the frontlines of patient care each and every day.

The Federation of American Hospitals is the national representative of more than 1,000 investor-owned or managed community hospitals and health systems throughout the United States. Our members include hospitals in urban and rural America, as well as inpatient rehabilitation, psychiatric, long-term acute care, and cancer hospitals.

Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2019 will extend critical nursing workforce development programs that invest in the education and training of our nation’s nurses. This legislation will play a vital role in ensuring that nurses continue to provide high-quality care to patients across the nation, including rural and underserved communities, by supporting nursing education, practice, recruitment, and retention. We urge Congress to swiftly enact this legislation.

We further offer our appreciation for the inclusion of S. 1045, Nursing Where It’s Needed Act (Nursing WIN Act), originally introduced by Senators Todd Young and Doug Jones. This provision will help ensure that all nurses in critical shortage facilities are eligible for the loan repayment program.

We commend you for your bipartisan leadership and look forward to working with you and your colleagues to ensure the passage of Title VIII Nursing Reauthorization Act of 2019.

Sincerely,

cc: The Honorable Lamar Alexander, Chair, U.S. Senate HELP Committee  
The Honorable Patty Murray, Ranking Member, U.S. Senate HELP Committee