



## Oncology Nursing Society

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The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Aderholt  
Chairman  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

July 15, 2024

Dear Representatives Cole, DeLauro, and Aderholt,

Oncology nurses are privileged to support people with cancer through the entire cancer experience, from diagnosis and treatment into survivorship or as they face their end-of-life journey. As such, the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) thanks the House Appropriations Committee for increasing funding for the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in the Fiscal Year 2025 Appropriations Bill for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies. However, we do have several concerns with other aspects of this bill and the impact proposed funding levels would have on efforts to prevent and treat cancer.

We are worried about the bill's impact on the nursing profession. The nation is in the midst of a severe nursing shortage. According to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), federal authorities project a shortage of 78,610 full-time RNs in 2025 and a shortage of 63,720 full-time RNs in 2030. Yet the bill cuts funding for Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs by \$18.3 million from FY24 enacted levels. These programs are vital in recruiting and retaining highly qualified nurses and critical to maintaining the stability of our healthcare system. Additionally, the bill would eliminate the Nursing Workforce Diversity program. Diversity in the nursing workforce provides opportunities for a broader understanding of demographic-specific nuances for care and treatment. This is especially true in oncology, where nurses must manage the physical and emotional well-being of a patient and interact closely with caregivers throughout complicated, long-term treatment plans.

The bill's plan to restructure NIH is also troubling. Consolidating the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR), along with four other Institutes and Centers, into a new National Institute on Health

Sciences Research, will undermine NINR's mission of improving patient health outcomes across the lifespan.

Finally, as you know, the bill would absorb the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) into a new "National Institute on Innovation and Advanced Research" at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and cut its funding from \$1.5 billion to \$500 million. ARPA-H's unique model allows for transformative research that cannot be accomplished through traditional means. Already, ARPA-H research shows great promise in revolutionizing cancer prevention and treatment, including the ADvanced Analysis for Precision cancer Therapy (ADAPT), which tracks cancer biomarkers, allowing for more effective and targeted treatments. Cutting funding for ARPA-H would be devastating to progressing the fight against cancer and other deadly diseases.

We look forward to working with you as the appropriations process continues to address these concerns. For more information, please contact Jaimie Vickery, ONS Director of Government Affairs and Advocacy, at [healthpolicy@ons.org](mailto:healthpolicy@ons.org).

Sincerely,

The Oncology Nursing Society

**About ONS:** The Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) is a professional organization of over 35,000 registered nurses and other healthcare providers dedicated to excellence in patient care, education, research, and administration in oncology nursing. ONS members are a diverse group of professionals who represent a variety of professional roles, practice settings, and subspecialty practice areas. Oncology nurses are leaders in the healthcare arena, committed to continuous learning and leading the transformation of cancer care by advocating for high quality care for people with cancer.