



## **The Educating Future Nurses Act (HR. 3623 and S. 1586)**

The Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses (AMSUN) is the only specialty nursing organization dedicated to the practice of medical-surgical nursing. AMSUN and its more than 10,000 members represent nurses who have advanced organizational, prioritization, assessment, and communication skills and are leaders in coordinating care among interprofessional health care teams. Medical-surgical nursing is practiced in several settings across the health care industry, including hospitals, outpatient settings, in homes, via telemedicine and other non-traditional settings.

### **Background on the Issue**

Congress must prioritize strengthening the national nursing pipeline to address ongoing staffing shortages and challenges faced by the U.S. healthcare system. Advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) play an indispensable role in providing high-quality, cost-effective, and comprehensive care across the nation, particularly in rural and underserved areas. However, significant barriers—such as high costs associated with clinical training—prevent aspiring APRNs from accessing critical clinical education and training opportunities. Further, federal action is urgently needed to ensure that future APRNs have the requisite resources and experiences to thrive in their roles, while advancing high-quality and equitable care for all.

### **The Educating Future Nurses Act**

The *Educating Future Nurses Act* was introduced by U.S. Senators Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Bob Casey (D-PA), and Maggie Hassan (D-NH) on May 11, 2023, and the House bill was introduced on May 24, 2023, by Representatives Lauren Underwood (D-IL-14), Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR-01), and Steven Horsford (D-NV-04). The legislation would address the national nursing shortage and boost the number of APRNs in the U.S. health care workforce by doing the following:

- Establishing a national graduate nursing education program, creating the first-ever federal funding stream that invests in graduate nursing education within Medicare.
- Bolstering collaborative partnerships between schools of nursing, community-based care settings, and eligible hospitals to ensure prospective APRNs have permanent access to vital clinical training opportunities.
- Expanding upon the successful Graduate Nursing Education demonstration created under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which led to a 54% increase in APRN enrollment and a 67% increase in graduation.

**Recommendation:** ASMSN joins with the Nursing Community Coalition in urging Members of Congress to cosponsor the *Educating Future Nurses Act* (HR. 3623 and S. 1586).