



Charles N. Kahn III
President & CEO

November 29, 2018

Sen. Todd Young
United States Senate
400 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Sen. Doug Jones
United States Senate
326 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Young and Jones:

Nurses are the backbone of community hospitals. Their commitment to care allows hospitals to meet their mission every day. Unfortunately, current law disincentivizes nurses who rely on Section 846 loans from providing care to patients in more than 500 critical shortage facilities.

It's for this reason that the Federation of American Hospitals fully supports passage of the Nurse WIN Act, S.3685. Your legislation to amend the Section 846 Loan Repayment Program to allow participating nurses to serve at any qualifying Critical Shortage Facility is an essential component to addressing the nursing shortage in hundreds of communities across the country. The Nurse WIN Act rightly refocuses the loan repayment program on a community's need for qualified nursing professionals when determining eligible practice sites, eliminating the current and arbitrary exclusion of certain high need facilities. Further, this change to the program will provide nurses with the freedom to work in any community of need, as well as more effectively align the program with its stated mission of "supporting and facilitating the provision of health care in areas of greatest need."

From 2002 through 2007, the Section 846 Loan Repayment Program did not contain the same restrictions that are currently in place. During that time, 40% of nurses participating in the program chose to practice at one of the more than 500 sites that have since been made arbitrarily ineligible, despite facing continued nursing shortages. S.3685 will return eligibility to these facilities and return them to the pool of eligible sites from which participating nurses can choose to practice.

For communities struggling to employ enough qualified medical professionals, incentives like loan repayment can mean the difference between attracting new nursing graduates and continuing to struggle with staffing shortages. The Federation applauds your efforts to expand eligibility for the Section 846 Loan Repayment Program and giving nurses the freedom to practice where they are most needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles N. Kahn III".