



March 8, 2023

The Honorable Mark Warner
United State Senate
703 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tim Kaine
United States Senate
231 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Warner and Kaine:

I am writing on behalf of the Arlington Chamber of Commerce to support Marymount University's request for FY2024 Congressionally Directed Spending for its project proposal "Addressing the Nursing Shortage by Increasing the Number of Under-represented Culturally Competent Nurses." This project will increase the capacity of their Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing program and help bring underrepresented racial and ethnic groups into the healthcare workforce. Both those outcomes will help address the ongoing nursing shortage affecting Northern Virginia and the nation as a whole.

As President and CEO of the Arlington Chamber, I know firsthand how well Marymount University serves as an integral community player in Arlington County. The university also serves an active partner in training students for the workforce. For example, Marymount nursing students work with PathForward, a local nonprofit organization, in providing health education, routine blood pressure and blood sugar screenings, and vaccinations.

The nation has faced a shortage of health care professionals for years, especially nurses. Nursing shortages brought on by an aging population, long wait times for licensure approval and extended work hours not only strain health care systems but also affect patient care. This problem has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The proposal will positively impact our workforce and economy, while enabling and empowering minority groups in Northern Virginia to expand their skills and move into higher paying jobs in the healthcare industry.

This project will improve the lives of so many in our community and help drive economic growth. We ask that Congress includes it in Congressionally Directed Spending for FY 2024.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Bates". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kate Bates
President & CEO