



Dear Colleagues and Supporters,

Thank you to all who have reached out in support of the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR). The proposed structural changes to the NIH framework pose significant challenges but also provide an opportunity for us to reaffirm the essential role of nursing science in shaping the future of health care.

We hope to provide you with updates on a monthly basis in the next couple of months so we can work together as a nursing research community, and so we are all aligned. Today, we'd like to share some background about NINR, recent changes, how you can help and some of the latest articles and news.

Historic Context

The current discussion about NINR's future stems from efforts dating back to 2003, when Congress asked the NIH to assess whether its organizational structure was well-suited for 21st-century biomedical research. The resulting National Academy of Sciences report, *Enhancing the Vitality of the National Institutes of Health*, recommended a transparent, public process for evaluating any changes to NIH's structure.

Recent Events

In June 2024, a new report from House Energy & Commerce Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers, *Reforming the National Institutes of Health: Framework for Discussion*, reignited this conversation. Since that report, FNINR has taken swift, strategic action to ensure the independence and visibility of NINR and the nurse scientists it supports; we have:

- **Expanded the FNINR Ambassador Program** to nearly 50 advocates, strengthening our legislative presence nationwide.
- **Held a Virtual Hill Day** on May 7, meeting with 48 congressional offices across both parties.
- **Issued public statements** and launched outreach efforts encouraging constituents to contact lawmakers in support of NINR.
- **Partnered with the Nursing Community Coalition** to submit a joint letter to Congress, outlining the contributions of nurse scientists and urging continued investment in NINR.
- **Submitted formal comments** to Congress highlighting the broad impact of nursing research on population health.

How You Can Help

We need your voice now more than ever. Here's how you can support our efforts:

- **Raise Awareness:** Talk to your colleagues, students, and communities about the vital contributions of nursing science and the value of NINR.
- **Contact Your Legislators:** Share your support for keeping NINR an independent institute. Personalized outreach to members of Congress is one of the most effective ways to drive impact.

Latest News and Information

We're encouraged by the recent appointment of **Dr. Courtney Akin as Acting Director of NINR**, bringing a fresh perspective to this critical moment for nursing science.

Below are key articles and resources to help you stay informed and amplify your advocacy:

- **Opinion: Preserve the National Institute of Nursing Research's Independence:** [MedPage Today](#)
- **Editorial: Don't Fold Nursing Research, Fund It:** [Journal of Nursing Education](#)
- **The Bethesda Declaration:** [Stand Up for Science](#)
- **How the Proposed NIH Reorganization Puts Patients at Risk:** [MedPage Today](#)

Together, we can ensure that nursing research remains a central force in advancing health and improving outcomes for communities across the country. Thank you for standing with us.

Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research (FNINR)

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