



The National Voice for Direct-Care RNs

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September 29, 2025

Dear Member Congress,

On behalf of our more than 225,000 registered nurse (RN) members, National Nurses United, the largest union of RNs in the United States, urges you to **oppose H.R. 5371**, the Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act of 2026, **and instead support H.R.5450/ S.2882**, Continuing Appropriations and Extensions and Other Matters Act of 2026. NNU applauds the introduction of H.R. 5450/ S.2882, as it will restore health care funding and assistance, while also ending the Trump administration's unprecedented power over government spending and returns full appropriations power to Congress.

NNU members are extremely concerned about the impending health care cuts from the Republican passed budget bill (H.R.1, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act) that is set to slash over \$1 trillion from Medicaid and Medicare, and rips health care coverage from over 16 million people. Many of the cuts will be phased in starting as early as the end of this year, in addition to the expiring Affordable Care Act (ACA) enhanced premium tax credits. However, there is still time to protect the well-being of our patients, their families, and our communities. **As the September 30th deadline to fund the government approaches, we strongly urge Congress address the looming health care crisis that Republican Congressional leadership created.**

Let us be perfectly clear: If the health care cuts are not reversed, our patients will suffer. Millions of patients will lose their coverage and will be forced to ration their prescriptions or delay seeing a doctor. Many will be forced to seek care through emergency rooms, or in the worst cases, patients will die unnecessarily. In fact, experts predict more than 50,000 people will die each year because of these cuts.¹ Even before the passage of H.R. 1, nurses were witness to how our profit-driven health care system is a death sentence for our patients who cannot afford to pay.

Additionally, the loss of Medicaid dollars will hurt hospital budgets, leading to major job and service cuts, unsafe staffing levels, and even hospital closures — particularly in rural areas. Remaining hospitals and their emergency departments will be even more

¹ Werner, R., et.al. (2025). Projected Mortality Impacts of the Budget Reconciliation Bill, *Letter: Response to Request for Technical Assistance*. The Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics. The University of Pennsylvania. <https://ldi.upenn.edu/our-work/research-updates/research-memo-projected-mortality-impacts-of-the-budget-reconciliation-bill/>

overwhelmed, driving up health care costs across the system and pushing more families into medical debt and bankruptcy, worsening the financial strain already felt by millions in our broken for-profit health care system. When the Republicans passed this bill, they voted to upend an already fragile system, and it is their responsibility to fix it before it is too late.

We have witnessed the Trump administration push through damaging cuts without Congressional approval in order to diminish government programs and services. The Administration has gutted our federal government, including illegally frozen Congressionally-appropriated funds, fired thousands of federal workers who carry our essential agencies and services, and more—all to seize unchecked power and make the ultrawealthy and corporations richer. H.R. 5450/ S.2882 includes critical provisions that will put the proper guardrails in place to prevent the Trump administration from overstepping Congressional appropriations authority. We strongly support Congress taking action to reign in the Administration's power grab.

Republicans control both chambers of Congress and the White House, which means they hold the responsibility to govern. Any funding bill must pass the Senate with 60 votes in support. It is Republican leadership's responsibility to work with Democrats to put forward a bill that reflects the needs of the American people. But instead of meeting with and negotiating across the aisle, Republicans in Congress are risking a government shutdown, which will further exacerbate the economic stain felt by working people today. **By refusing to govern, Republicans bear full responsibility for the devastating consequences that would ensue if the government is shutdown.**

As nurses, we are our patients' advocates first, and we are calling on you to negotiate a funding bill that will protect our patients. **We urge you to support H.R. 5450/ S.2882, which will rightfully prevent the deep health care cuts from being implemented, return the power of the purse to Congress, and ensure any and all appropriated funds are spent on our critical public services.** Thank you for your consideration on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Puneet Maharaj", with a stylized, flowing script.

Puneet Maharaj
Executive Director
National Nurses United