



June 25, 2026

The Honorable Jennifer Kiggans
152 Cannon House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Brian Fitzpatrick
271 Cannon House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Joyce
2065 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Don Bacon
2104 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jack Bergman
566 Cannon House Office Building
United States of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Kiggans, Joyce, Bergman, Fitzpatrick, and Bacon:

On behalf of the American College of Cardiology (ACC) and our more than 60,000 cardiovascular clinicians and team members, I write to express our strong support for the ***Nursing is a Professional Degree Act*** (H.R. 8691).

The ACC is grateful for your bipartisan efforts to ensure those pursuing post-baccalaureate nursing degrees have access to affordable student loans. As you know, recent legislative changes have placed a cap on federal educational loans of \$20,500 annually and \$100,000 in the aggregate for graduate level degrees. This cap is higher for professional degrees, with limits of \$50,000 annually and \$200,000 in the aggregate. Unfortunately, The U.S. Department of Education has classified post-baccalaureate nursing degrees as graduate level, meaning those students have substantially less opportunity to seek federal educational loans.

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Geoffrey A. Rose, MD, FACC

Chief Executive Officer
Cathleen C. Gates

The Mission of the American College of Cardiology and the American College of Cardiology Foundation is to transform cardiovascular care and improve heart health for all.

Your legislation would classify post-baccalaureate nursing degrees (MSN, DNP, DNAP, or Ph.D.) as professional degrees, enabling those students to pursue their education utilizing the higher federal loan limits. This will help ensure that those wishing to care for patients and their communities through a career in nursing are not deterred by financial constraints or forced to seek loans from private lenders with higher interest rates.

Providing the highest level of patient care is reliant upon the many diverse talents and skills of the health care team. Your legislation ensures that the pipeline of students pursuing post-baccalaureate nursing degrees remains strong and will benefit the health care community and our nation as a whole. The ACC stands ready to assist you in advocating for this essential legislation. For any questions or additional information, please contact ACC's Associate Director for Legislative Affairs, John Kristan, at JKristan@acc.org.

Sincerely,



Roxana Mehran, MD, FACC
President
American College of Cardiology

The American College of Cardiology (ACC) is a global leader dedicated to transforming cardiovascular care and improving heart health for all. For more than 75 years, the ACC has empowered a community of over 60,000 cardiovascular professionals across more than 140 countries with cutting-edge education and advocacy, rigorous professional credentials, and trusted clinical guidance. From its world-class JACC Journals and NCDR registries to its Accreditation Services, global network of Chapters and Sections, and CardioSmart patient initiatives, the College is committed to creating a world where science, knowledge and innovation optimize patient care and outcomes. Learn more at www.ACC.org or connect on social media at @ACCinTouch.

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June 25, 2026

The Honorable Roger Wicker
425 Russell Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
522 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
531 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Cynthia Lummis
127A Russell Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Wicker, Merkley, Lummis, Murkowski, and Collins:

On behalf of the American College of Cardiology (ACC) and our more than 60,000 cardiovascular clinicians and team members, I write to express our strong support for the ***Nursing is a Professional Degree Act*** (S. 4568).

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