

Thank You for Standing Up for Nursing Education

Dear LSNA Members,

Thank you for your strong and timely advocacy.

LSNA sincerely appreciates every member who submitted comments by the **March 2, 2026, deadline** to the U.S. Department of Education's Under Secretary regarding the proposed exclusion of nursing programs from the federal definition of "**professional degree**" programs. Your voices helped underscore the vital role nursing education plays in safeguarding public health, strengthening the healthcare workforce, and advancing health equity.

Because of your engagement—and the collective action of nurses, educators, and allies nationwide—**277 state and national organizations across the healthcare and higher education community joined together** to support this critical issue. This extraordinary level of collaboration sends a powerful message: nursing education must be recognized, protected, and supported at the federal level.

LSNA was proud to join the **Nursing and Friends Coalition** in submitting comprehensive comments that clearly outlined the potential consequences of this exclusion and reaffirmed why nursing programs meet and should continue to meet the definition of professional degree programs.

Advocacy like this matters. Policymakers need to hear directly from nurses and nursing organizations about how regulatory decisions affect students, faculty, the nursing pipeline, and ultimately the patients and communities we serve. Your participation reinforces the credibility and influence of our profession.

A copy of this Nursing and Friends comment letter can be found at this [link](#)

Thank you for standing with LSNA and with nurses across the country. Together, we continue to advance nursing and protect the future of our profession.

With appreciation,

Louisiana State Nurses Association (LSNA)

