

## Issue Brief – Nursing Initiative

NUMBER USHE-05

### SUMMARY

The Legislative Fiscal Analyst recommends funding for the Nursing Initiative for FY 2007 in the amount of \$1.2 million. The recommendation is for \$700,000 ongoing funding and \$500,000 one-time. In conjunction with this initiative, the health care industry has pledged to donate \$1 million each year over the next four years to supplement the State funding to help resolve the nursing shortage in Utah. This is the third year of the

### OBJECTIVE

The health care industry is experiencing a shortage in staffing its nursing workforce. There is the need to educate more nurses, but there is also the need to increase the number of masters and doctorate degree “nurse educators” to be able to expand the capacity to train those nursing students.

### DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Both here in Utah and nationally, there is a looming nurse shortage. The factors contributing to the shortage here in Utah include the following:

- Growth in the population, especially among the elderly
- Longer life spans and more chronic illnesses
- The aging of the current nursing workforce
- Nurses’ salaries and general working conditions

In many other states, the nursing shortage is due to fewer people wanting to go into the profession. In Utah, the problem is not the lack of applicants, but the capacity of the institutions with the faculty to provide the necessary education.

The Analyst recommends that the Subcommittee consider prioritizing funding in the amount of \$1.2 million for the Nursing Initiative. The Analyst recommends the allocation of the funding as shown in the following table:

<b>USHE Nursing Initiative</b>			
FY 2007 Funding Recommendation			
	<u>Ongoing</u>	<u>One-time</u>	<u>Total</u>
University of Utah	\$171,200	\$122,200	\$293,400
Weber State University	115,600	82,600	198,200
Southern Utah University	52,500	37,500	90,000
Snow College	52,500	37,500	90,000
Dixie State College	87,600	62,600	150,200
College of Eastern Utah	52,500	37,500	90,000
Utah Valley State College	52,500	37,500	90,000
Salt Lake Community College	115,600	82,600	198,200
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$700,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$500,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,200,000</u></b>