



Boston Children's Hospital

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**HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL
TEACHING HOSPITAL**

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April 2, 2026

To: Senator Elizabeth Warren and Senator Edward Markey

Re: U.S. Senate FY2027 Regis College Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) Request.
Boston Children's Letter of Support

I am writing in support of the Regis College's Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) request. Boston Children's Hospital works closely with Regis on clinical placement opportunities for pre-licensure nursing student to successfully transition students to as they join our nursing workforce. The integration of *immersive virtual reality* (IVR) as a component of clinical simulation represents a forward-thinking approach to healthcare education. IVR has demonstrated an ability significantly enhance student learning, strengthen clinical readiness, and ensure more consistent exposure to high-risk, low-frequency clinical care delivery essential for competency.

The impact of this initiative extends well beyond the classroom. Massachusetts hospitals and healthcare delivery settings are increasingly challenged by workforce shortages and new levels of patient acuity and complexity. By supplementing clinical hours with high-quality immersive virtual reality simulation, nursing programs can reduce the burden on clinical sites while still preparing students to meet workforce demands. This creates a more sustainable and mutually beneficial partnership between academic institutions and healthcare delivery settings, balancing both care delivery and academic commitments.


Furthermore, students who are prepared using advanced simulation tools report greater confidence, stronger critical thinking skills, and improved readiness to contribute effectively to patient care teams. The use of these tools has demonstrated earlier practice readiness, reduced costs for healthcare systems, and aims to improved patient care quality, safety, and outcomes.

The proposed initiative also opens the door for collaborative opportunities between nursing programs and hospital systems. Simulation scenarios can be co-developed to reflect real-world challenges that arise in healthcare delivery organizations, aligning educational outcomes with workforce needs. This level of collaboration further fosters stronger relationships and ensures that nursing graduates are well-prepared to transition seamlessly into practice within those healthcare systems.

In an era where innovation in education is essential to address healthcare workforce shortages and improve the quality of care, the integration of IVR simulation is both timely and necessary. This grant would not only enhance the educational experience of nursing students but also create lasting, positive impacts on healthcare delivery through strengthened academic-practice partnerships.

Boston Children's support this Regis College funding request supporting an invest in the future of nursing education and healthcare excellence in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura J. Wood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and "W".

Laura J. Wood, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN
EVP, Patient Care Operations
System Chief Nurse Executive
Boston Children's Hospital