



February 15, 2017

The Honorable Tom Price, MD  
Secretary  
The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services  
Hubert H. Humphrey Building  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Price:

We write to you as the largest coalition representing nursing constituencies in America. The Nursing Community includes 63 members that are the cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the profession. We believe that the healthcare delivery system should be one that promotes wellness, advances research through scientific discovery, and provides timely access to care. With over four million licensed Registered Nurses (RNs), Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), and nursing students, the profession embodies the drive and passion to continually improve care for patients, families, and communities across the continuum. With that said, we pledge to work with you as head of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to thoughtfully assess where change is needed and preserve critical advancements made in recent years to improve our healthcare system.

Since 2009, when the Nursing Community was formally established, our goal has been to build consensus and advocate on a wide spectrum of policy issues. The Nursing Community is proud to represent the largest segment of the healthcare workforce and our organizations are committed to improving the health of our nation by collaborating to support the education, practice, and research of RNs and APRNs. It is our collective voice that has allowed us to convene, measure, and propose solutions as well as evaluate proposals.

Nurses are an integral link to all aspects of care. Whether in remote rural areas or large urban cities, RNs and APRNs are proven, high-quality providers who lead and partner to ensure successful care continuity and transitions. We are ready to work with you and your staff on these and more specific priorities. Attached is a letter we sent to the Transition Team. We welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss meaningful change. Please call on the [Nursing Community](#) to be a voice for the profession and our patients by contacting Dr. Suzanne Miyamoto, at 202-463-6930 ext. 247 or [SMiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu](mailto:SMiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu).



December 12, 2016

The Honorable Mike Pence  
Vice President-Elect  
Chair  
The Presidential Transition Team  
1800 F Street NW, Room G117  
Washington, DC 20270

Dear Vice President-Elect Pence:

The Nursing Community is a coalition of national nursing associations that builds consensus and advocates on a wide spectrum of healthcare issues, including practice, education, and research. Our coalition is committed to improving the health and health care of the nation by collaborating to support the education and practice of Registered Nurses (RNs) and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs). Collectively, we represent over one million practicing nurses, nurse executives, nursing students, faculty, and researchers. We welcome the opportunity to serve as a resource to the new Administration and help ensure Americans receive high-quality, cost-effective care.

Since 2009, the Nursing Community has advocated for a healthy nation by holding strong to the following Core Principles:

- A robust and diverse nursing workforce is essential to the health of all Americans.
- Nurses are an integral part of the healthcare team, are involved in every aspect of care delivery, and are committed to the patient, their families, the community, and the nation.
- The contributions made by the practice and science of nursing are critical to the delivery of high quality, life-saving, preventive, and palliative health care across all care settings, geographic areas, and social determinants of health.
- The services RNs and APRNs provide are linked directly to the availability, cost, and quality of healthcare services.
- Affordable, accessible, high-quality health care and improved health outcomes depend upon a model of care that is patient-centered and comprehensive. This can only be achieved through the full complement of expertise gained from broad-based, inter-professional partnerships of all health professionals, including RNs and APRNs.
- Nursing's involvement is essential to the development of new healthcare information technology infrastructure. Nursing data are key to identifying patient outcomes and required improvements in the delivery of patient care.

For over a decade, the Nursing Community has championed increased funding for the Nursing Workforce Development programs, authorized under Title VIII of the *Public Health Service Act* (42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.)

and administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration. Within the last five years, the coalition has expanded its policy agenda to support funding for the National Institute of Nursing Research within the National Institutes of Health and directed our advocacy efforts to Congress and the Administration on subjects, including:

- Population health
- Primary care and access to the entire continuum of specialty services provided by RNs and APRNs
- Telehealth
- Workforce supply and demand focused on economic, demographic, and geographic trends
- Veterans' health care
- Provider parity and nondiscrimination by health plans
- Emerging public health crises

Additionally, working collaboratively, the Nursing Community has supported nominations of nursing experts to federal boards and commissions. We will look forward to the opportunity to share with the Trump Administration, the depth and breadth of expertise our coalition membership has to offer as it relates to systematic healthcare improvements.

Finally, we would like to share with the Administration the contributions the nursing workforce offers our nation and what we believe is critical to shaping a reformed delivery system.

#### **ACCESS**

- Registered Nurses are the single largest group of healthcare professionals in the country and are critical to the delivery of high-quality, life-saving, preventive, and palliative health care across all care settings, geographic areas, socio-economic factors, and cultures.
- Peer-reviewed research has demonstrated that when Advanced Practice Registered Nurses are able to provide services to the full extent of their education and training, they offer cost-effective, comprehensive, and the highest-quality care in a patient-centered environment.

#### **AFFORDABILITY**

- Patient-centered, community-based care coordination models that include a variety of primary and specialty healthcare provider options are proven to be cost-effective and efficient in improving quality health outcomes.
- Increased research and clinical focus on wellness and health promotion strategies will yield significant improvements to the health of the nation, and produce cost savings that can be reinvested into achieving better health for all.

#### **QUALITY**

- Transparent reporting of healthcare measures and outcomes by all providers empowers consumers, enables providers to make evidence-based decisions about processes of care, and can be used by purchasers to incentivize high-quality and cost-effective care.
- The use of a national interoperable health information technology system that protects the privacy rights of individuals will improve safety and reliability, ensuring cost-effective and coordinated care.

The unique partnership the Nursing Community has created allows our national nursing organizations to unite on shared agendas and to promote America's health through nursing care. Again, we welcome the opportunity to work with the Trump Administration. If the 60 undersigned organizations can be of any assistance, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the convener of the Nursing Community, Dr. Suzanne Miyamoto, at [Smiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu](mailto:Smiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu) or 202-463-6930, ext. 247. To review the efforts of the Nursing Community visit: <http://www.thenursingcommunity.org>.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses  
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing  
American Academy of Nursing  
American Assembly for Men in Nursing  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses  
American Association of Heart Failure Nurses  
American Association of Neuroscience Nurses  
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
American Association of Nurse Assessment Coordination  
American Association of Nurse Practitioners  
American Association of Occupational Health Nurses  
American College of Nurse-Midwives  
American Nephrology Nurses Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Nursing Informatics Association  
American Organization of Nurse Executives  
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association  
American Psychiatric Nurses Association  
American Society for Pain Management Nursing  
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses  
Association for Radiologic & Imaging Nursing  
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators  
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care  
Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses  
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses  
Association of Public Health Nurses  
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service  
Dermatology Nurses' Association  
Emergency Nurses Association  
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association  
Hospice & Palliative Nurses Association  
Infusion Nurses Society  
International Association of Forensic Nurses  
International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses  
National American Arab Nurses Association  
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists

National Association of Hispanic Nurses  
National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners  
National Association of Neonatal Nurses  
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Association of School Nurses  
National Black Nurses Association  
National Council of State Boards of Nursing  
National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers  
National Gerontological Nursing Association  
National League for Nursing  
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium  
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Organization for Associate Degree Nursing  
Pediatric Endocrinology Nursing Society  
Public Health Nursing Section, American Public Health Association  
Society of Pediatric Nurses  
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates  
The Quad Council of Public Health Nursing Organizations  
Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing Society

CC:

Andrew P. Bremberg  
Department of Health and Human Services Agency Landing Team Co-Lead  
President-Elect's Transition Team

Paula M. Stannard  
Department of Health and Human Services Agency Landing Team Co-Lead  
President-Elect's Transition Team