

November 13, 2020

President-Elect Joseph Biden
Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris
c/o The Honorable Ted Kaufman
Chair
Presidential Transition Team
1401 Constitution Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear President-Elect Biden and Vice President-Elect Harris,

On behalf of the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC), which includes 63 member organizations, we offer our support and welcome the opportunity to collaborate and serve as a resource to the Biden Administration, especially during these unprecedented times. The NCC represents the cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the nursing profession and believes that the healthcare delivery system should be one that promotes wellness, advances research through scientific discovery, and provides timely access to care across the life continuum.

During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, as with every public health crisis this country has faced, nurses are the experts leading at the frontlines of the healthcare response. They provide testing, infection control, and care for patients daily who have contracted, battled, and even succumbed to this virus. We agree that this pandemic requires bold action and commend your incoming Administration for taking the first step by establishing a COVID-19 taskforce. This initial overture highlights your strong commitment to our nation's health.

As you continue to chart a path forward, we strongly encourage you to include nurses at every step of the process, in all possible conversations, and among all future taskforces, commissions, committees, councils, and federal boards. With positive cases increasing and the mortality rate rising, nurses remain a trusted resource of information, a frontline provider, and source of compassionate care for the patient and family. As we look ahead to a possible vaccine, our public health nursing workforce will be leading distribution efforts in communities nationwide, and our current and future nurses, from every corner of the U.S., will answer the call yet again to administer vaccines to the public.

The NCC recognizes that COVID-19 is not the only health challenge facing our country. We know nurses have and will continue to play a significant and vital role in health innovations to enhance care delivery. We are proud to see the Biden-Harris transition team include nursing experts on Agency Review Teams to build a stronger foundation for a healthier nation. With over four million licensed Registered Nurses (RNs), Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), nurse leaders, students, faculty, and researchers, the

¹ APRNs include certified nurse-midwives (CNMs), certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs), clinical nurse specialists (CNSs) and nurse practitioners (NPs).

profession embodies the drive and passion to continually improve care for all patients, families, and communities.²

For over a decade, the Nursing Community Coalition has held strong to our <u>Core Principles</u> and has championed increased investments in Nursing Workforce Development programs, authorized under Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.), as well as the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR).

Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs: Supporting Our Current and Future Nurses

Administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration, Title VIII Nursing Workforce

Development programs help meet the nation's demand for nursing services by addressing all aspects of nursing education, practice, recruitment, and retention. Their focus is to address the needs of rural and underserved communities, where nursing care is critical to improving health.

National Institute of Nursing Research: Nurse Researchers and Scientists Leading the Way

As one of the 27 Institutes and Centers at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), NINR funds research that establishes the scientific basis for quality patient care. From reducing burdensome chronic illness and improving end of life care, NINR is at the forefront of disease prevention, patient care, and recovery. Our nation's nurse researchers and scientists are essential to developing new evidence-based practices to care for all patients.

Over the years, the NCC has expanded its policy agenda in many ways. For example, members of the Nursing Community Coalition have supported nominations of nursing experts to federal boards, commissions, and taskforces to ensure the breadth of nursing expertise in research, practice, and academia informs sound policy. With an ever-changing health care landscape, the NCC also has focused on issues impacting:

- Primary care and access to the entire continuum of services provided by RNs and APRNs
- Workforce supply and demand focused on economic, demographic, and geographic trends
- Health care disparities to ensure a more equitable and inclusive health care system for all
- Ethnic, racial, and socioeconomic diversity within the profession
- Maternal Mortality
- Telehealth
- Mental Health
- Population health
- Veterans' health care
- Provider parity and nondiscrimination by health plans
- Current and future public health challenges
- Removal of unnecessary barriers to increase access to care

Successfully bridging innovations with impactful implementation is essential to ensuring an equitable and efficient health delivery system. As our nation continues to grapple with COVID-19, and as we prepare for the next public health challenge, the contribution of nursing education and the workforce remains critical; especially as we address the above issues and work to increase access to high-quality health care and promote wellness of the patient and provider.

² National Council of State Boards of Nursing. (2020). Active RN Licenses: A profile of nursing licensure in the U.S. as of November 3, 2020. Retrieved from: https://www.ncsbn.org/6161.htm.

The unique partnership the Nursing Community Coalition has created allows our national nursing organizations to unite on shared priorities and promote America's health through the nursing lens. We stand ready to work with the Biden Administration as we combat COVID-19 and build a healthier nation. If the Nursing Community Coalition can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the coalition's Executive Director, Rachel Stevenson, at 202-463-6930 ext. 271 or rstevenson@thenursingcommunity.org. We also invite you to view the Nursing Community Coalition's recent efforts at www.thenursingcommunity.org/.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses

American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing

American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners

Academy of Neonatal Nursing

American Academy of 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 Practitioners

American Association of Occupational Health Nurses

American Association of Post-Acute Care Nursing

American College of Nurse-Midwives

American Nephrology Nurses Association

American Nurses Association

American Nursing Informatics Association

American Organization for Nursing Leadership

American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association, Inc.

American Public Health Association, Public Health Nursing Section

American Psychiatric Nurses Association

American Society for Pain Management Nursing

American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

Association for Radiologic and 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 Veterans Affairs Nurse Anesthetists

Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses

Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Incorporated

Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service

Dermatology Nurses' Association

Emergency Nurses Association

Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research

Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association

Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association

Infusion Nurses Society

International Association of Forensic Nurses

International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses

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 League for Nursing

National Nurse-Led Care Consortium

National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties

Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs

Oncology Nursing Society

Organization for Associate Degree Nursing

Pediatric Endocrinology Nursing Society

Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association

Society of Pediatric Nurses

Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates

Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society