November 6, 2013

Dear Member of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee:

The 30 undersigned national nursing organizations urge you to support Linda Spoonster Schwartz, DrPH, MSN, RN, USAF (Ret) to serve as the Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Policy and Planning. Dr. Schwartz will appear before the Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs for her confirmation hearing on November 6, 2013.

Collectively, our organizations represent registered nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, nurse executives, nursing students, nursing faculty, and nurse researchers. We are thrilled to have a dynamic nurse leader in this highly influential role, and we urge your support of Dr. Schwartz’s nomination.

Dr. Schwartz brings a vast wealth of knowledge to VA. She has a long history of involvement in nursing and veteran organizations. Schwartz served 16 years in the United States Air Force both on Active Duty and as a Reservist (1967-1986). She has served as Commissioner of The Connecticut Department of Veterans’ Affairs since 2003. Presently, Dr. Schwartz serves as the Vice President and Chairman of Health Care for the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs. She received a Masters in Nursing from Yale and holds a Doctorate in Public Health from the Yale School of Medicine.

She is an advocate and activist who devoted her nursing practice to healing the wounds of war and improving the lives of America’s 24 million veterans. Her perspectives as a nurse and veteran have earned her the respect and trust of veterans, Congressional leaders and government officials alike.

Again, we would like urge you to support the confirmation of Dr. Linda Spoonster Schwartz for the position of Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Policy and Planning. Should you have any questions regarding our support of this stellar candidate, please contact April Canter, Associate Director of Government Affairs at the American Nurses Association at april.canter@ana.org.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
American Academy of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Nurse Assessment Coordination
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Nephrology Nurses' Association
American Nurses Association
American Organization of Nurse Executives
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses
Association of Public Health Nurses
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service
Dermatology Nurses' Association
Developmental Disabilities Nurses Association
Infusion Nurses Society
International Society of Psychiatric Nursing
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Association of Neonatal Nurses
National Association of School Nurses
National Black Nurses Association
National Nursing Centers Consortium
National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing
Oncology Nursing Society
Public Health Nursing Section, American Public Health Association
The Quad Council of Public Health Nursing Organizations