February 25, 2013

The Honorable Max Baucus
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Finance
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Finance
104 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Baucus and Ranking Member Hatch,

The undersigned members of the Nursing Community, a forum comprised of national professional nursing associations that builds consensus and advocates on a wide spectrum of healthcare and nursing issues, would like to express our overwhelming support of Marilyn Tavenner, RN, MHA, for the position of Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). With great respect for Ms. Tavenner’s exceptional qualifications, we are enthusiastic to see her nomination to this federal leadership role.

Collectively, the Nursing Community represents nearly one million Registered Nurses, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, nurse executives, nursing students, nursing faculty, and nurse researchers. Our organizations are committed to improving the health and health care of our nation while working with federal leadership to achieve these goals. We believe Ms. Tavenner embodies the qualities needed to be a successful leader of CMS. As a former practicing nurse and hospital administrator, Ms. Tavenner understands the scope of our complex health care delivery system. Her extensive experience and broad knowledge base gained from serving as former Virginia Secretary of Health and Human Resources as well as Acting Administrator and Principal Deputy Administrator for CMS demonstrate her ability to serve as a catalyst for improving quality, safety, and cost-effectiveness at the point of care delivery.

The Nursing Community appreciates your consideration of Ms. Tavenner’s nomination as Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. We believe strongly that Ms. Tavenner’s expertise and merits will provide CMS with the leadership needed to guide our healthcare system during this time of great change. Please do not hesitate to contact Suzanne Miyamoto, at smiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu, or at 202-463-6930, ext. 247 if the Nursing Community can offer additional accolades for Ms. Tavenner, a remarkable voice for healthcare quality and redesign.

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 Nurse Anesthetists  
American Association of Nurse Assessment Coordination  
American Association of Nurse Practitioners  
American College of Nurse-Midwives  
American Nephrology Nurses' Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Organization of Nurse Executives  
American Psychiatric Nurses Association  
American Society for Pain Management Nursing  
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses  
Asian American and Pacific Islander Nurses Association  
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators  
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care  
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses  
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses  
Association of State and Territorial Directors of Nursing  
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  
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association  
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association  
Infusion Nurses Society  
International Nurses Society on Addictions  
International Society of Nurses in Genetics  
International Society of Psychiatric Nursing  
National American Arab Nurses Association  
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists  
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 Coalition of Ethnic Minority Nurse Associations  
National Gerontological Nursing Association  
National Nursing Centers Consortium  
National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing  
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties  
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association  
Public Health Nursing Section, American Public Health Association  
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates  
Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society  

Cc:  Sec. Kathleen Sebelius, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
    Senator Harry Reid
    Senator Mitch McConnell
    Senator Mark Warner
    Senator Tim Kaine
    Senator John D. Rockefeller
    Senator Ron Wyden
    Senator Charles E. Schumer
    Senator Debbie Stabenow
    Senator Maria Cantwell
    Senator Bill Nelson
    Senator Robert Menendez
    Senator Thomas R. Carper
    Senator Benjamin L. Cardin
    Senator Sherrod Brown
    Senator Michael Bennet
    Senator Chuck Grassley
    Senator Mike Crapo
    Senator Pat Roberts
    Senator Michael B. Enzi
    Senator John Cornyn
    Senator John Thune
    Senator Richard Burr
    Senator Johnny Isakson
    Senator Rob Portman
    Senator Patrick Toomey