May 7, 2012

Dear Member of Congress and dedicated staff,

The 47 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community—a forum comprised of national professional nursing membership associations that builds consensus and advocates on a wide spectrum of healthcare and nursing issues surrounding practice, education, and research—would like to express our appreciation of your support for the nursing profession as the nation recognizes National Nurses Week.

Celebrated annually from May 6 through May 12, National Nurses Week recognizes our nation’s 3.1 million registered nurses, the largest health profession. Nurses provide high-quality, cost-effective care to patients across the entire lifespan, and are often the caregivers who spend the most time at a patient’s side.

During this week, the Nursing Community simply wishes to raise awareness of the important role nurses play in our nation’s healthcare delivery system, through their advanced practice, research to improve health outcomes, and education provided to patients, families, communities, and future nurses. We ask that as you continue your vital work to promote America’s health, please use us as a resource when health policy questions are raised. Nurses are integral to providing solutions to our nation’s most pressing healthcare needs.

As part of the Nursing Community’s efforts to strengthen outreach to fellow nurses on Capitol Hill, we would appreciate if you could identify any member(s) of your staff who is a registered nurse. In the spirit of solely recognizing these professionals for their dedication, we would like to personally extend our gratitude for the important work they do in the policy arena.

If you do have any nurses serving among your staff or have any questions for the Nursing Community, contact Suzanne Miyamoto at smiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
American Academy of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
American Association of Nurse Assessment Coordination
American College of Nurse Practitioners
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Holistic Nurses Association
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
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
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association
Infusion Nurses Society
International Association of Forensic Nurses
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 Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of School Nurses
National Black Nurses Association
National Gerontological Nursing Association
National Nursing Centers Consortium
National Organization of Associate Degree Nurses
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs
Oncology Nursing Society
Pediatric Endocrinology Nursing Society
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Public Health Nursing Section, American Public Health Association
Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society