



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](mailto: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