



January 19, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building, H-232
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
United States House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building, H-204
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
U.S. Capitol Building, S-230
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Democratic Leader
United States Senate
U.S. Capitol Building, S-221
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan, Majority Leader McConnell, Democratic Leader Pelosi and Democratic Leader Schumer:

We write to you as the largest coalition representing nursing constituencies in America. The Nursing Community represents the cross section of education, practice, and research within the profession. We believe that the healthcare delivery system should be one that promotes wellness, advances research through scientific discovery, and provides timely access to care. At the core of every nursing professional is the passion to continually improve care for patients and families across the continuum. With that said, we pledge to work with the leadership in the House and Senate to critically assess where change is needed and preserve critical advancements made in recent years to improve our healthcare system.

The Nursing Community includes 63 national professional nursing associations aimed at building consensus and advocating on a wide spectrum of policy issues. Our organizations are committed to improving the health of our nation by collaborating to support the education, practice, and research of Registered Nurses (RNs) and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs). Collectively, the Nursing Community represents over one million practicing nurses, nurse executives, nursing students, faculty, and researchers.

It is our collective voice that has allowed us to convene, measure, and propose solutions as well as evaluate proposals since 2009 when the Nursing Community was formally established. It is our firm and sincere belief that conversations among policymakers will benefit from the trust, experience, and patient-centered lens that nurses offer. Nurses are an integral link to all aspects of care. Whether in remote rural areas or large urban cities, RNs and APRNs are proven, high-quality providers who lead and partner to ensure successful care continuity and transitions.

We are available to you and your staff to comment, shape, and evaluate proposals as they are drafted. As a bipartisan coalition, we will engage with all members of Congress to share our expertise. We strongly urge you as leaders to continue to consider all viewpoints. The nation demands a meticulous and extensive review. Lives, wellness, and sustainability are at stake. We do not take this lightly, and as a coalition have taken up the call to action from the 115th Congress to be at the table for these vital conversations.

We stand ready to work with you. Please call on the [Nursing Community](#) to be a voice for the profession and our patients by contacting Dr. Suzanne Miyamoto, at 202-463-6930 ext. 247 or SMiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu.

CC:

The Honorable Greg Walden
The Honorable Frank Pallone
The Honorable Kevin Brady
The Honorable Richard Neal
The Honorable Orrin Hatch
The Honorable Ron Wyden
The Honorable Lamar Alexander
The Honorable Patty Murray