



January 23, 2013

Dear Member of Congress,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations comprising the Nursing Community, we would like to congratulate you on your successful election and look forward to collaborating with you in the 113th Congress. The Nursing Community is a forum of 57 national professional nursing associations that builds consensus and advocates on a wide spectrum of healthcare and nursing issues, including practice, education, and research. Our organizations are committed to improving the health and health care of our nation by collaborating to support the education and practice of Registered Nurses (RNs) and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs). Collectively, the Nursing Community represents nearly one million nurses, nursing students, and nursing faculty.

Recognizing that nurses have and will continue to play a significant role in healthcare innovations that improve care delivery, we are dedicated to supporting practicing nurses to the full extent of their education and training. Our coalition works to support the following principles:

- A robust and diverse nursing workforce is essential to the health of all Americans.
- Nurses are an integral part of the healthcare team, are involved in every aspect of care, and are committed to the patient, their families, and the community.
- The contributions made by the practice and science of nursing are critical to the delivery of high quality, life-saving, preventive, and palliative health care across all care settings, geographic areas, and social determinants of health.
- The services RNs and APRNs provide are linked directly to the availability, cost, and quality of healthcare services.
- Affordable, accessible, high quality health care, and improved health outcomes depends upon a model that is patient-centered and comprehensive, which can be achieved through the full complement of expertise gained from broad-based, inter-professional partnerships.
- Nursing involvement is essential to the development of all aspects of the new healthcare information infrastructure. Nursing data is key to identifying patient outcomes and is essential to identifying required improvements in the delivery of patient care.

We aim to ensure that high quality nursing services are accessible to individuals across all care settings, particularly in underserved areas, while influencing the development of care delivery models that support a sustainable healthcare system long-term. The Nursing Community recognizes that this endeavor cannot be achieved without strong support for nursing education, research, and practice programs.

If the Nursing Community can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Suzanne Miyamoto, at 202-463-6930 ext. 247 or SMiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu. We also invite you to view the Nursing Community's recent efforts at <http://www.thenursingcommunity.org/>.

Sincerely,

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