



May 29, 2026

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
531 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roger Wicker
425 Russell Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dave Joyce
2065 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Suzanne Bonamici
2231 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jen Kiggans
152 Cannon House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lauren Underwood
2228 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Merkley, Senator Wicker, Congressman Joyce, Congresswoman Bonamici, Congresswoman Kiggans, and Congresswoman Underwood:

On behalf of 65 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC), we commend you, as leaders of the Senate and House Nursing Caucuses, for introducing S.Res.709 and H.Res.1264, honoring and recognizing May 6 through 12, 2026 as National Nurses Week. These bipartisan resolutions underscore the indispensable care the more than five million Registered Nurses (RNs)¹, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs)², nurse leaders, nursing students, faculty, researchers, and other nurses with advanced degrees, provide to patients across the country.

The NCC is a cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the nursing profession and recognizes how vital our nursing workforce is to the health of our nation. As the largest segment of the health care profession,³ nursing is involved at every point of care across a variety of settings, including in community health centers, hospitals, long-term care facilities, local and state health departments, schools, workplaces, and patients' homes. From researchers

¹ National Council of State Boards of Nursing. (2026). Active RN Licenses: A Profile of Nursing Licensure in the U.S. Retrieved from: <https://www.ncsbn.org/active-rn-licenses>

² APRNs include certified nurse-midwives (CNMs), certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs), clinical nurse specialists (CNSs) and nurse practitioners (NPs).

³ Smith, Sean and Blank, Andrew. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (June 2023) Healthcare Occupations: Characteristics of the Employed. Slide Two: Employment in the 25 largest healthcare occupations, 2022. Retrieved from: <https://www.bls.gov/spotlight/2023/healthcare-occupations-in-2022/>

translating today's science into tomorrow's cures to frontline providers at the patient's bedside, these resolutions highlight all the ways nurses support our communities, not only during National Nurses Week, but throughout the year.

We deeply appreciate your recognition of how vital our nursing students, nurses, and APRNs are to the fabric of America's health care system. As we work to provide substantial federal investment for nursing education, practice, and research, and address the pressing policy issues facing our country, we look forward to working with you as we continue to support our current and future nurses. If the Nursing Community Coalition can be of any assistance to you or your staff, please do not hesitate to contact the coalition's Executive Director, Rachel Minahan, at rstevenson@thenursingcommunity.org.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
Academy of Neonatal Nursing
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners
American Academy of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
American Association of Heart Failure Nurses
American Association of Neuroscience Nurses
American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American Association of Occupational Health Nurses
American Association of Post-Acute Care Nursing
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Nephrology Nurses Association
American Nurses Association
American Nursing Informatics Association
American Organization for Nursing Leadership
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association, Inc.
American Public Health Association, Public Health Nursing Section
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Society for Pain Management Nursing
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
Association for Radiologic and Imaging Nursing
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses
Association of Public Health Nurses
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
Association of Veterans Affairs Nurse Anesthetists
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service

Dermatology Nurses' Association
DNP's of Color
Emergency Nurses Association
Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association
Infusion Nurses Society
International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Association of Hispanic Nurses
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 Council of State Boards of Nursing
National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers
National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence
National League for Nursing
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs
NurseTRUST
Oncology Nursing Society
Organization for Associate Degree Nursing
Pediatric Endocrinology Nursing Society
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Society of Pediatric Nurses
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates
Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nurses Society

CC:

Senator John Barrasso
Senator Marsha Blackburn
Senator Richard Blumenthal
Senator Cory Booker
Senator Shelley Moore Capito
Senator Kevin Cramer
Senator Steve Daines
Senator Tammy Duckworth
Senator Richard Durbin
Senator Chuck Grassley
Senator John Hickenlooper
Senator Mazie Hirono
Senator James C. Justice
Senator Ben Ray Lujan
Senator Edward Markey

Senator Alex Padilla
Senator Gary Peters
Senator Jim Risch
Senator Mike Rounds
Senator Jeanne Shaheen
Senator Tina Smith
Senator Thomas Tillis
Senator Elizabeth Warren