

May 29, 2020

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Vice-President Michael Pence
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump and Vice-President Pence,

The American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN) represents the nation's 500,000 critical care nurses, many of whom are now serving on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of this, we were surprised and dismayed to find that Vice-President Mike Pence's announcement on new members of the White House Coronavirus Task Force did not include a representative with nursing expertise. Nurses' perspectives on this pandemic are unique and essential to informing decisions made by federal leaders.

A successful response to this pandemic requires leveraging all pertinent expertise. We are at the patient's side every hour of every day, monitoring their complete physiologic status, analyzing complex data, administering lifesaving medications, collaborating with other healthcare team members, translating information to families and providing end-of-life presence when those families cannot visit due to strict isolation requirements. The public has gained new insight regarding the role of nurses in the delivery of health care. Federal leaders should similarly recognize the importance of nurses' unique expertise and impact on patient care and well-being.

As states reopen, this country will continue to rely on nurses to treat patients with COVID-19. We are the largest group of health care professionals in the nation and it represents a major gap in perspective to fail to include this group in planning for the future. Our organization stands ready to provide you with recommendations for nurse

leaders who would provide invaluable assistance to the work of the Taskforce. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Connie Barden, MSN, RN, CCRN-K, FAAN
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American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
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cc: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Robert Redfield
Global AIDS Coordinator Deborah Birx
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Anthony Fauci
Surgeon General Jerome M. Adams
Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Administrator Seema Verma
National Institutes of Health Director Francis S. Collins
Office of Science and Technology Policy Director Kelvin Droegemeier
Health Resources and Services Administration Administrator Thomas J. Engels
Food and Drug Commissioner Stephen M. Hahn
Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research Director Peter Marks