



July 26, 2021

Ms. Dawn O'Connell
Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Assistant Secretary O'Connell,

On behalf of the [Nursing Community Coalition \(NCC\)](#), we congratulate you on your confirmation as the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss shared goals, especially during these unprecedented times. The NCC represents a cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the nursing profession and believes that the healthcare delivery system should be one that promotes wellness, advances research through scientific discovery, and provides timely access to care across the life continuum. We are proud to continue our work with HHS, especially as nurses, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs)¹, nursing students, and nurse leaders represent the largest segment of the healthcare workforce.

During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, as with every public health crisis this country has faced, nurses and APRNs are the experts leading at the frontlines of the healthcare response. The work you have accomplished in addressing global health, infectious diseases, and public health emergencies, exemplifies your expertise as we continue to address the ongoing pandemic and prepare for the challenges yet to come. We recognize that that our students, nurses, and APRNs are an integral link to the future health of our nation, no matter if it is in remote rural areas or large urban cities. As we continue to address the safety and well-being of our frontline healthcare workforce, and the patients they serve, we stand ready to work with you to remove barriers to practice, encourage innovation, and prepare for future public health challenges.

The unique partnership the NCC has created allows our national nursing organizations to unite on shared priorities and promote America's health through the nursing lens. If the Nursing Community Coalition can be of any assistance to you or your staff, and to set up a meeting to discuss shared goals, please do not hesitate to contact the coalition's Executive Director, Rachel Stevenson, at rstenenson@thenursingcommunity.org or at 202-463-6930, ext. 271.

¹ APRNs include certified nurse-midwives (CNMs), certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs), clinical nurse specialists (CNSs) and nurse practitioners (NPs).

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
Academy of Neonatal Nursing
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 Anesthetists
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
Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Incorporated
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service
Dermatology Nurses' Association
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 Association of Forensic Nurses
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
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