



January 27, 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:

In our effort to work closely with the leadership and committees of jurisdiction during this time of health reform, we would like to share the following priorities from the Nursing Community coalition that highlight areas of consensus regarding access, affordability, and quality. The Nursing Community represents the cross section of education, practice, regulation, and research within the profession and includes 63 national professional nursing associations. While not exhaustive, this list represents overarching areas where the coalition is prepared to work with Congress and provide our expertise.

ACCESS

Workforce is one of the most critical aspects of ensuring timely access to care.

Federal policies that support the pipeline of highly-educated Registered Nurses (RNs) and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) will help meet current and emerging healthcare demands. We believe the following are critical aspects of workforce policies:

- *Strong Investment, Sustained, and Current Modifications to the Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII, Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 201 et seq.)*
- *Increased Diversity with the Nursing Workforce*
- *Sustainability for the Nursing Academic Infrastructure*
- *Ability to Practice to the Full Extent of Education and Clinical Training*
- *Retention and Adoption of Healthcare Provider Non-Discrimination Policies*
- *Comprehensive Nursing and Health Professions Workforce Data Collection*

AFFORDABILITY

Prevention, wellness, treatment, and health promotion across the continuum—pillars of nursing care— create long-term savings to the healthcare system that translates to a healthier nation.

Federal policies that recognize RNs and APRNs as leaders and partners in current and emerging models of care can serve to increase affordability for the patient. As new and innovative approaches continue to emerge, recognizing the role of RNs and APRNs is necessary to reduce rising costs. We believe the following are critical aspects of affordability policies:

- *Models of Care Should Include the Full Expertise and Clinical Practice of RNs and APRNs*
- *Recognize and Reimburse Care in a Manner Consistent with Other Health Professions*
- *Provider Networks Should Ensure Access to all Qualified Providers*

QUALITY

Quality is the bedrock in transforming healthcare.

Federal policies that recognize the role of RNs and APRNs in quality and safety will help ensure better patient outcomes. We believe the following are critical aspects of quality policies:

- *Accurate, Transparent, and Accountable Data Reporting*
- *Efficient and Effective Health Information Technology (HIT) Systems*
- *Engagement of All Providers in Measurement Development*
- *Streamlined Processes for Meaningful Quality Measurement*
- *Increased Investment in Nursing and Biomedical Research*

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