



October 11, 2017

Eric Hargan, JD  
Acting Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Hubert H. Humphrey Building  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Acting Secretary Hargan:

On behalf of the Nursing Community Coalition, we would like to congratulate you on your new position as Acting Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The Nursing Community Coalition includes 58 member organizations that are the cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the profession. We believe that the healthcare delivery system should be one that promotes wellness, advances research through scientific discovery, and provides timely access to care. With over four million licensed Registered Nurses (RNs), Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), and nursing students, the profession embodies the drive and passion to continually improve care for patients, families, and communities across the continuum. With that said, we pledge to work with you in your new capacity as you take the helm of an agency so vital to our nation's health.

Since 2009, when the Nursing Community Coalition was formally established, our goal has been to build consensus and advocate on a wide spectrum of policy issues. We are proud to represent the largest segment of the healthcare workforce and our organizations are committed to improving the health of our nation by collaborating to support the education, practice, and research of RNs and APRNs. It is our collective voice that has allowed us to convene, measure, and propose solutions as well as evaluate proposals.

Nurses are an integral link to all aspects of care. Whether in remote rural areas or large urban cities, RNs and APRNs are proven, high-quality providers who lead and partner to ensure optimal health outcomes. As you continue to convene stakeholders to discuss national priorities, including ways to reduce regulatory burden, we welcome the opportunity to meet directly with you on behalf of the coalition's 58 member organizations to discuss meaningful change. We look forward to submitting comments on HHS's Strategic Plan and providing our lens to the Department. Please call on our Coalition to be a voice for the profession and our patients by contacting Dr. Suzanne Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Nursing Community Coalition, at 202-463-6930 ext. 247 or [smiyamoto@aacnnursing.org](mailto:smiyamoto@aacnnursing.org).

*PROMOTING AMERICA'S HEALTH THROUGH NURSING CARE*

[www.thenursingcommunity.org](http://www.thenursingcommunity.org) · 202-463-6930 ext. 272