



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.