



January 20, 2022

Angela Ramirez  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Deputy Ramirez:

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), we congratulate you on your new role as Deputy Chief of Staff of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and welcome the opportunity to work with you and your staff.

As you know, nurses and nursing students are currently serving on the frontlines in the fight against COVID-19 by educating, tracing, testing, vaccinating, and boosting communities nationwide. We at AACN have a vested interest in supporting this work, as our 840 member schools are preparing over 560,000 nursing students for the workforce. Given the critical role nurses play in addressing public health emergencies and providing evidence-based care, we look forward to continuing to work with our colleagues at HHS to ensure that nurses are engaged in the national dialogue on protecting the nation's health and improving health care.

As the collective voice for academic nursing, AACN serves as the catalyst for excellence and innovation in nursing education, research, and practice, especially in rural and underserved communities. Our Federal Policy Agenda reflects our core policy values of sustainability, innovation, and inclusivity. We believe these principles are essential for strengthening and sustaining our nation's health.

As you begin your work to set priorities, please know that we are here to connect you with nursing leaders, researchers, and policy experts who offer critical insights. We welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss how we can assist in your work. If we can be of any assistance, please contact AACN by reaching out to Dr. Colleen Leners, Director of Policy at [CLeners@aacnnursing.org](mailto:CLeners@aacnnursing.org), or Rachel Stevenson, Director of Government Affairs at [RStevenson@aacnnursing.org](mailto:RStevenson@aacnnursing.org).

Sincerely,

Susan Bakewell-Sachs, PhD, RN, FAAN  
Board Chair

Deborah E. Trautman, PhD, RN, FAAN  
President and Chief Executive Officer