



April 6, 2021

Xavier Becerra
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Becerra:

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), we congratulate you on your confirmation as Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services and welcome the opportunity to work with you and your staff.

As you may know, nurses and nursing students are currently serving on the frontlines in the fight against COVID-19 by educating, tracing, testing, and vaccinating our communities. We at AACN have a vested interest in supporting this work, as our 840 member institutions are preparing over 560,000 nursing students to enter the workforce. Given the critical role nurses play in addressing public health emergencies and providing evidence-based care, we look forward to working with the Department of Health and Human Services 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 2021-2022 Federal Policy Agenda reflects our core policy values of sustainability, innovation, and inclusivity. We believe these principles are essential for strengthening and advancing our nation's health.

Please consider nursing professionals in your implementation of the American Rescue Plan. The field of nursing continues to provide strong, community-rooted, and cost-effective health care. We hope to work with you as we prepare the next generation of a diverse, highly qualified nurses.

As you begin your work to set priorities and strengthen the healthcare workforce, 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@aacnursing.org, or Rachel Stevenson, Director of Government Affairs at rstenenson@aacnursing.org.

Sincerely,

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

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

ADVANCING HIGHER EDUCATION IN NURSING

April 6, 2021

VADM Vivek Murthy
Assistant Secretary for Health
200 Independence Ave SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Admiral Murthy:

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), we congratulate you on your confirmation as U.S. Surgeon General and welcome the opportunity to work with you and your staff.

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

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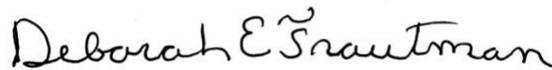
AACN has a long history of amplifying the message of the Surgeon General. We hope to continue working with your office and would welcome the opportunity for you to address the nation's nursing school deans and faculty at a future AACN conference. We look forward to working with you as we prepare the next generation of diverse, highly qualified nurses.

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April 6, 2021

ADM Rachel Levine
Assistant Secretary for Health
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Admiral Levine:

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), we congratulate you on your confirmation as Assistant Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services and welcome the opportunity to work with you and your staff.

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

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AACN has a long history of working closely with the Department of Health and Human Services. We look forward to working with you as we prepare the next generation of diverse, highly qualified nurses.

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Board Chair

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April 6, 2021

Rebecca Haffajee
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Haffajee:

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), we congratulate you on your appointment as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation and welcome the opportunity to work with you and your staff.

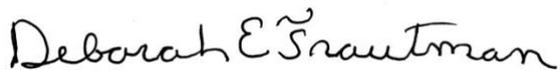
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Many of AACN members are data and science subject-matter experts who can lend their expertise and contribute to your strong regulatory background. We share your goal of working to enhance and strengthen healthcare data and research through methods such as the enhancement of NNPEs. We hope to work together in this endeavor, as well as in our work to prepare a diverse, highly qualified, and community-focused nursing workforce.

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