



October 9, 2014

Dr. Richard Kronick, PhD
Director
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
540 Gaither Road
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Dr. Kronick:

On behalf of the 42 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community coalition, we write to acknowledge the important work of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to equip the healthcare system and the patients it serves with evidence that improves the quality, safety, accessibility, and cost of healthcare services. More specifically, we commend AHRQ for its interprofessional approach to this work by utilizing the full breadth of health professionals. With over 3.1 million nurses in the workforce, nursing is the largest health profession and brings significant contributions to supporting the agency's mission. Collectively, the Nursing Community represents over one million registered nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, nurse faculty, researchers, and students, and is committed to promoting efforts that advance the health of our nation through nursing care.

In recent years, AHRQ has highlighted the important role of nursing through the position of the Senior Advisor of Nursing. Dr. Beth Collins Sharp was very successful in this position in connecting the broader nursing community with AHRQ and engaging stakeholders on research initiatives that drive evidence-based practice. During her tenure at the agency, Dr. Collins Sharp collaborated with numerous committees and councils to promote work centered on the translation and dissemination of research in multiple areas, including women's health and primary care. Although we understand that Dr. Collins Sharp has left AHRQ, we respectfully urge you to preserve a designated nursing position within the agency. We request your consideration of transitioning the Senior Advisor of Nursing position to Chief Nursing Officer as a counterpart to the recently created Chief Medical Officer position in AHRQ. By elevating this position, you would ensure that nursing's insight and expertise remains on the forefront of the momentous work that AHRQ continues to develop.

Once again, we applaud AHRQ and appreciate the opportunity to include nursing's input within the agency. If our organizations can be of any assistance, or if you have any questions, please contact Convener of the Nursing Community, Dr. Suzanne Miyamoto, at Smiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu or 202-463-6930, ext. 247.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
American Academy of Nursing

American Assembly for Men in Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
American Association of Heart Failure Nurses
American Association of Neuroscience Nurses
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American Association of Occupational Health Nurses
American Nurses Association
American Organization of Nurse Executives
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
Association for Radiologic and Imaging Nursing
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses
Association of Public Health Nurses
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service
Developmental Disabilities Nurses Association
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association
Infusion Nurses Society
International Society of Psychiatric Nursing
National American Arab Nurses Association
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Association of Hispanic Nurses
National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Neonatal Nurses
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of School Nurses
National Council of State Boards of Nursing
National Gerontological Nursing Association
National Nursing Centers Consortium
National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing
Oncology Nursing Society
Pediatric Endocrinology Nursing Society
Public Health Nursing Section, American Public Health Association
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates
The Quad Council of Public Health Nursing Organizations