



March 3, 2021

Denis R. McDonough  
Secretary  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary McDonough,

On behalf of the [Nursing Community Coalition \(NCC\)](#), which includes [63 member organizations](#), we congratulate you on your confirmation as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss shared goals, especially during these unprecedented times. The NCC represents a cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the nursing profession and believes that the healthcare delivery system should be one that promotes wellness, advances research through scientific discovery, and provides timely access to care across the life continuum. We are proud to continue our work with the Department, especially as nurses, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs)<sup>1</sup>, nursing students, and nurse leaders represent the largest segment of the healthcare workforce nationally and remain essential providers within the VA healthcare system.

During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, as with every public health crisis this country has faced, nurses are the experts leading at the frontlines of the healthcare response. This is true within the VA as well. The VA's mission to serve our nation's veterans makes nurses and APRNs an integral link to all aspects of care, no matter if it is in remote rural areas or large urban cities. The NCC recognizes that, particularly during these unprecedented times, ensuring the health care of our veterans and patients across the country is crucial. This includes our support for initiatives that remove barriers to high-quality nursing care, such as making full practice authority for Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) in the VA permanent.

The unique partnership the NCC has created allows our national nursing organizations to unite on shared priorities and promote America's health through the nursing lens. We stand ready to work with you, as head of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, as we combat COVID-19, preserve critical advancements, and support the health of our veterans who

---

<sup>1</sup> APRNs include certified nurse-midwives (CNMs), certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs), clinical nurse specialists (CNSs) and nurse practitioners (NPs).

deserve nothing less. If the Nursing Community Coalition can be of any assistance to you or your staff, and to set up a meeting to discuss shared goals, please do not hesitate to contact the coalition's Executive Director, Rachel Stevenson, at [rstenenson@thenursingcommunity.org](mailto:rstenenson@thenursingcommunity.org) or at 202-463-6930, ext. 271.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses  
Academy of Neonatal Nursing  
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing  
American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners  
American Academy of 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 Association of Post-Acute Care Nursing  
American College of Nurse-Midwives  
American Nephrology Nurses Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Nursing Informatics Association  
American Organization for Nursing Leadership  
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association, Inc.  
American Public Health Association, Public Health Nursing Section  
American Psychiatric Nurses Association  
American Society for Pain Management Nursing  
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses  
Association for Radiologic and Imaging Nursing  
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators  
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care  
Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses  
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses  
Association of Public Health Nurses  
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses  
Association of Veterans Affairs Nurse Anesthetists  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Incorporated  
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service  
Dermatology Nurses' Association  
Emergency Nurses Association  
Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research  
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association  
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association  
Infusion Nurses Society  
International Association of Forensic Nurses  
International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses

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 Black Nurses Association  
National Council of State Boards of Nursing  
National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers  
National League for Nursing  
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium  
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties  
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Organization for Associate Degree Nursing  
Pediatric Endocrinology Nursing Society  
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association  
Society of Pediatric Nurses  
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates  
Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society