



November 20, 2014

The Honorable Linda Spoonster Schwartz, DrPH, RN, FAAN
VA Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue NW
Washington DC 20420

Dear Dr. Schwartz:

On behalf of the 60 undersigned national nursing organizations representing the Nursing Community coalition, we write to congratulate you on your confirmation as the Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning for the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Collectively, the Nursing Community represents over one million registered nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, nurse executives, and nursing students, faculty, and researchers. Our organizations collaborate to advance sound policy decisions that promote improvements to our nation's health. The United States Senate's confirmation of your appointment is a direct testament to your exceptional leadership and full recognition of the strong impact you will have on guiding the work at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Your long-standing career in public service with both the United States Air Force Nurse Corps and former role as Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs has established you as a trusted and leading voice in the nation's efforts to ensure that America's Veterans receive the high-quality services they deserve and need. We are confident that your work at the VA will successfully assist the Department in its continued efforts to develop, implement, and evaluate policies and programs that are firmly grounded in establishing high-quality care for veterans and their families.

Once again, the Nursing Community applauds your confirmation and congratulates you on this achievement. If you have any questions, or if our organizations can be of assistance, please contact Convener of the Nursing Community, Dr. Suzanne Miyamoto, at smiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu, or at 202-463-6930, ext. 247.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
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 Assessment Coordination
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American Association of Occupational Health Nurses
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Nephrology Nurses' Association
American Nurses Association
American Organization of Nurse Executives
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association
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 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
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service
Dermatology Nurses' Association
Developmental Disabilities Nurses Association
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association
Infusion Nurses Society
International Association of Forensic Nurses
International Society of Nurses in Genetics
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 Black Nurses Association
National Council of State Boards of Nursing
National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers
National Gerontological Nursing Association
National Nursing Centers Consortium
National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing

National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs
Oncology Nursing Society
Pediatric Endocrinology Nursing Society
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Public Health Nursing Section, American Public Health Association
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates
The Quad Council of Public Health Nursing Organizations
Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society