The 45 undersigned participants of the Nursing Community, a forum of national professional nursing associations that build consensus and advocate on a wide spectrum of healthcare and nursing issues, wish to congratulate you on your recent election. Together these organizations represent nearly 800,000 Registered Nurses (RNs) and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs). As you begin your service in the 112th Congress, your work will focus on many challenges, including healthcare. As you and your staff continue to consider changes to the nation’s healthcare system, the Nursing Community would be honored to serve as a resource.

As you may be aware, the Institute of Medicine recently released, *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*, a report calling for the full inclusion of nurses in the process of redesigning health care in the United States. During this Congress, we hope to share with you the valuable contributions made by nurses as both leaders and essential care providers within the healthcare team. Nurses are the largest group of health professionals, with approximately 3.1 million dedicated and trusted RNs in the United States. From preventive to palliative care, to chronic care management and public health, nursing expertise helps ensure Americans and their families have access to lifesaving and life-sustaining care.

RNs and APRNs provide services in all settings from hospitals to schools to workplaces as well as in the most rural and underserved areas. Additionally, the work of leading nurse researchers has contributed to interventions that improve patient outcomes and keep healthcare expenditures down. The services, philosophy of care, and research inquiries of APRNs and RNs are directly linked to improving the availability and quality of care as well as reduced costs within the delivery system.

The Nursing Community is a network of experts on the science and practice of the profession who stand ready to provide you the knowledge needed to make informed decisions for our nation’s health. Our participants look forward to working with you and your staff during the 112th Congress. For your convenience, we have included a list of member contacts from the Nursing Community to help you efficiently access information on a variety of nursing specialties.

Sincerely,

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