



May 23, 2017

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Chairman, Senate Finance Committee
104 Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Hatch,

In response to your call for comments on healthcare legislation, the Nursing Community coalition would like to highlight the following areas of consensus regarding access, affordability, and quality that fall under the jurisdiction of the Senate Finance Committee. The Nursing Community represents the cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the profession and includes 63 national professional nursing associations. While not exhaustive, this list represents overarching areas where the coalition is prepared to work with your committee and share our expertise.

ACCESS and AFFORDABILITY

Prevention, wellness, treatment, and health promotion across the continuum—pillars of nursing care—create long-term savings to the healthcare system that translate to a healthier nation.

Federal policies that recognize Registered Nurses (RNs) and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) as leaders and partners in current and emerging models of care can serve to increase affordability for the patient. As new and innovative approaches continue to emerge, recognizing the role of RNs and APRNs is necessary to reduce rising costs. We believe the following are critical aspects of affordability policies:

- *Ability to Practice to the Full Extent of Education and Clinical Training*
- *Retention and Adoption of Healthcare Provider Non-Discrimination Policies*
- *Models of Care Should Include the Full Expertise and Clinical Practice of RNs and APRNs*
- *Recognize and Reimburse Care in a Manner Consistent with Other Health Professions*
- *Provider Networks Should Ensure Access to all Qualified Providers*

QUALITY

Quality is the bedrock in transforming healthcare.

Federal policies that recognize the role of RNs and APRNs in quality and safety will help ensure better patient outcomes. We believe the following are critical aspects of quality policies:

- *Accurate, Transparent, and Accountable Data Reporting*
- *Efficient and Effective Health Information Technology Systems*
- *Engagement of All Providers in Measurement Development*
- *Streamlined Processes for Meaningful Quality Measurement*

We stand ready to work with you. Please call on the [Nursing Community](#) to be a voice for the profession and our patients by contacting Dr. Suzanne Miyamoto, at 202-463-6930 ext. 247 or SMiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu.