



January 30, 2018

The Honorable Alex Azar II, JD
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Hubert H. Humphrey Building
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Azar,

On behalf of the Nursing Community Coalition, which includes 58 national nursing organizations that are the cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the profession, we would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. We believe that the healthcare delivery system should be one that promotes wellness, prevents disease, advances research through scientific discovery, and provides timely access to quality care in order to enhance the health of all Americans.

We write to you as the largest nursing coalition focused on federal advocacy in America, representing over one million licensed Registered Nurses (RNs), Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), and nursing students in the country. The profession exemplifies the determination and desire to continually improve care for patients, families, and communities across the continuum. We pledge to work in partnership with you as you take the helm of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to thoughtfully assess where transformation is needed and preserve critical advancements made in recent years to improve our healthcare system.

Since 2008, when the Nursing Community Coalition began its work, our goal has been to build consensus and advocate on a wide spectrum of policy issues. The Nursing Community Coalition is proud to represent the largest segment of the healthcare workforce and our organizations are committed to improving the health of our nation by collaborating to support the education, practice, research, and regulation of RNs and APRNs. It is our collective voice that has allowed us to convene, evaluate, and propose solutions to crucial healthcare policies.

Nurses are a fundamental link to all aspects of care. Whether in remote rural areas or large urban cities, RNs and APRNs are proven, high-quality providers who lead and partner to ensure successful care continuity and transitions. We are ready to work with you and your staff and welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss the future of collaboration in the healthcare arena. Please call on the [Nursing Community](#) to be a voice for the profession and our patients by contacting the coalition's Executive Director, Dr. Suzanne Miyamoto, at 202-463-6930 ext. 247 or SMiyamoto@aacnnursing.org.

Promoting America's Health Through Nursing Care

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