July 22, 2014

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
Chairman
Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Burr
Ranking Member
Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee
217 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Sanders and Ranking Member Burr:

On behalf of the 27 undersigned national nursing organizations, we extend our support for President Obama’s nomination of Robert McDonald as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and urge his confirmation by the Senate. Our organizations represent registered nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, nurse executives, nursing students, faculty, and researchers. As Secretary, we believe Mr. McDonald would serve the VA and the nation well by guiding the agency’s activities related to the health of our nation’s Veterans.

As an Army Veteran, Mr. McDonald understands the needs of the Veteran community and will be dedicated to transitioning the Department through this challenging time. In addition to his military career, Mr. McDonald’s professional portfolio includes an extensive career at Procter & Gamble where he served as President and Chief Executive Officer, and later as Chairman of the Board. Mr. McDonald’s career at Procter & Gamble spanned several senior-level positions, demonstrated his ability to deliver quantifiable results in the private sector, and prepared him for the task of leading the VA. Mr. McDonald’s extensive management experience will successfully translate to the VA so our nation’s Veterans receive the high-quality healthcare they deserve.

Again, we respectfully urge the Senate to confirm Robert McDonald as Secretary of the VA. If our organizations can be of any assistance, or if you have any questions, please contact Suzanne Miyamoto, at Smiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu or 202-463-6930, ext. 247.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Nurses Association
American Organization of Nurse Executives
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses
Association of Veterans Affairs Nurse Anesthetists
Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Dermatology Nurses' Association
Developmental Disabilities Nurses Association
International Society of Psychiatric Nursing
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Association of School Nurses
National Council of State Boards of Nursing
National Gerontological Nursing Association
National Nursing Centers Consortium
National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs
Oncology Nursing Society
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates

CC:
Senator John Rockefeller
Senator Patty Murray
Senator Sherrod Brown
Senator Jon Tester
Senator Mark Begich
Senator Richard Blumenthal
Senator Mazie Hirono
Senator Johnny Isakson
Senator Mike Johanns
Senator Jerry Moran
Senator John Boozman
Senator Dean Heller