Commitment to America's Health

A Consensus Statement from the Nursing Community

June 2017

The Nursing Community coalition represents the cross section of education, practice, research, regulation, and executive leadership within the profession. Our organizations are committed to the patient, the family, the community, and the populations our members serve. We embrace being part of and leading transdisciplinary teams today and the opportunities in the future to achieve the national goals of greater access and improved quality through cost-controlling measures that make care more affordable. Innovation, teamwork, and commitment are at the heart of this transformation.

Since 2009, when the Nursing Community was formally established, our goal has been to build consensus and advocate on a wide spectrum of policy issues. The Nursing Community is proud to represent the largest segment of the healthcare workforce comprised of nearly four million Registered Nurses (RNs) and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs). It is our collective voice that has allowed us to convene, measure, and propose solutions as well as evaluate proposals.

As the Administration and Congress address health reform, our coalition stands ready to support the following ideals that are at the forefront of the national dialogue:

- Ensure patients have access to quality health care with affordable coverage options, regardless of their pre-existing conditions;
- Uphold the principles of essential health benefits, including providing patients with access to ambulatory care, emergency services, hospitalization, maternity and newborn care, mental health services and addiction treatment, prescription drugs, rehabilitative services and devices, laboratory services, preventive services, wellness services and chronic disease management, and pediatric services;
- Uphold Medicaid expansion.

Additionally, we are concerned with the pace at which Congress and committees of jurisdiction are moving legislative proposals. We believe that thoughtful debate and due process are essential to addressing a policy of this magnitude.

Healthcare transformation cannot be solely addressed by insurance reforms. There must be a conscious endeavor to support the infrastructure and the workforce. We believe that the healthcare delivery system should be one that promotes wellness, advances innovation through scientific discovery, and provides timely access to care. These are the pillars of nursing care and create long-term savings to the healthcare system that translate to a healthier nation. The Nursing Community pledges to work with Congress to draft legislation and with the Administration to modify regulations that:

Support Provider Choice, Innovation, Prevention, and System Efficiencies

- Protect patients' access to receive health care delivered by the provider of their choice, including advanced practice registered nurses, which include nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse-midwives, and certified registered nurse anesthetists, and ensure this care is covered by their insurer;
- Create greater efficiency in the Medicare system by retiring barriers to practice and eliminating duplication of healthcare providers' efforts, for example, the ability of certain APRNs to certify home health services;
- Retain and adopt healthcare provider non-discrimination policies;
- Advance models of care that include the full expertise and clinical practice of RNs and APRNs;
- Recognize and reimburse care in a manner consistent with other health professions;
- Support effective collection of standardized, evidence-based performance information that will accurately measure quality and enable transition to a value-based payment system that engages all providers in quality measurement development;
- Increase investment in nursing and biomedical research.

Advance Comprehensive Workforce Development

- Invest in and reauthorize the Nursing Workforce Development Programs (Title VIII, Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 201 et seq.));
- Support innovations in interprofessional education, training, and practice;
- Conduct timely and comprehensive analysis of nursing and health professions workforce data.

Signed on behalf of the following fifty-two organizations:

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
American Academy of Nursing
American Association 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 Assessment Coordination
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American College of Nurse-Midwives

American Nephrology Nurses Association
American Nurses Association
American Nursing Informatics Association
American Organization of Nurse Executives
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Public Health Association, Public Health Nursing Section
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 Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses
Association of Public Health Nurses
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service
Dermatology Nurses' Association
Emergency Nurses Association
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association
Infusion Nurses Society
International Association of Forensic Nurses
International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
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 Black Nurses Association
National Council of State Boards of Nursing
National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers
National Gerontological Nursing Association
National League for Nursing
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs
Oncology Nursing Society
Organization for Associate Degree Nursing
Society of Pediatric Nurses