

July 20, 2016

The Office on Trafficking in Persons
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Attention: Kate Cooper
330 C Street SW, Room 4126
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Ms. Cooper:

On behalf of the seven organizations listed below, we write in support of Maria N. Ruud, DNP, APRN, CNP, to become a member of the National Advisory Committee on the Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States. This letter is intended to supplement the "Statement of Interest Form" that is required for Committee membership.

As a nurse, Dr. Ruud has provided direct care for, advocated for victims of, and taught student nurses about issues related to human trafficking. She is certified as a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner and currently provides reproductive health care services to vulnerable teens and young adults, a population at-risk for human trafficking. She has personally identified victims of sex trafficking. She is also an assistant professor at the University of Minnesota, where she educates the next generation of nurses on how to best identify and care for victims of human trafficking.

From 2005 to 2010, Dr. Ruud served as a legislator in the Minnesota House of Representatives. She ran for office because she was witness to the human cost of bad public policy, particularly in the health care setting. Her combination of state-level public service and clinical experience, make her an ideal candidate for the Committee.

On the national level, Dr. Ruud led a writing team that developed a much needed resource outlining warning signs, clinical considerations, and policy recommendations to address the needs of human trafficking victims. Entitled "Human Trafficking," it was published in the May/June 2016 issue of the *Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic, & Neonatal Nursing*. Additionally, she serves on the Public Policy Committee of the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN) and was instrumental in encouraging AWHONN to include advocacy for victims of human trafficking among its policy priorities.

There are more nurses than any other health care professional in the United States. Furthermore, nurses are uniquely situated as trusted professionals to address the special needs of trafficking victims. Dr. Ruud is a nursing leader and would be a tremendous asset to the National Advisory Committee on the Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States. Thank you for considering her as a Committee member. If you have any questions about her qualifications, please contact Kerri Wade at kwade@awhonn.org.

Sincerely,

American Organization of Nurse Executives
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses

Infusion Nurses Society
National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers
Oncology Nursing Society
Organization for Associate Degree Nursing