



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 and includes 63 national professional nursing associations. 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 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 preexisting 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 Congressional leadership and committees of jurisdiction are moving the American Health Care Act. 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, 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.