



September XX, 2014

Dr. Richard Kronick, PhD  
Director  
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality  
540 Gaither Road  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Dr. Kronick:

On behalf of the XX undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community coalition, we write to acknowledge the important work of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to equip the healthcare system and the patients it serves with evidence that improves the quality, safety, accessibility, and cost of healthcare services. More specifically, we commend AHRQ for its interprofessional approach to this work by utilizing the full breadth of health professionals. With over 3.1 million nurses in the workforce, nursing is the largest health profession and brings significant contributions to supporting the agency's mission. Collectively, the Nursing Community represents over one million registered nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, nurse faculty, researchers, and students, and is committed to promoting efforts that advance the health of our nation through nursing care.

In recent years, AHRQ has highlighted the important role of nursing through the position of the Senior Advisor of Nursing. Dr. Beth Collins Sharp was very successful in this position in connecting the broader nursing community with AHRQ and engaging stakeholders on research initiatives that drive evidence-based practice. During her tenure at the agency, Dr. Collins Sharp collaborated with numerous committees and councils to promote work centered on the translation and dissemination of research in multiple areas, including women's health and primary care. Although we understand that Dr. Collins Sharp has left AHRQ, we respectfully urge you to preserve a designated nursing position within the agency. We request your consideration of transitioning the Senior Advisor of Nursing position to Chief Nursing Officer as a counterpart to the recently created Chief Medical Officer position in AHRQ. By elevating this position, you would ensure that nursing's insight and expertise remains on the forefront of the momentous work that AHRQ continues to develop.

Once again, we applaud AHRQ and appreciate the opportunity to include nursing's input within the agency. If our organizations can be of any assistance, or if you have any questions, please contact Convener of the Nursing Community, Dr. Suzanne Miyamoto, at [Smiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu](mailto:Smiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu) or 202-463-6930, ext. 247.

Sincerely,