



June XX, 2014

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-221, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-230, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Reid and McConnell:

On behalf of the XX undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community, we write in support of President Obama's nomination of Linda Schwartz, DrPH, RN, FAAN, for the position of Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning at the U.S. Veterans Administration (VA), and we respectfully urge you to schedule and support her confirmation. As you know, the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs supported her confirmation on November 19, 2013. Collectively, our organizations represent nearly one million registered nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, nurse faculty, researchers, and students, and are committed to promoting efforts that advance the health of our nation through nursing care.

Dr. Schwartz brings a wealth of experience and leadership through a robust professional portfolio, including her service as a nurse, state government official, and as Past President of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs. Her understanding of the VA's healthcare system is strongly supported in her current position of Connecticut Department of Veterans' Affairs, and she is a Veteran herself. She is well-suited to navigate the complexities healthcare policy to ensure that our nation's servicemen and women have access to high-quality care.

Again, we thank you for your consideration of our request to proceed with the confirmation of Dr. Linda Schwartz to the position of Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning at the VA. If you have any questions, or if our organizations can be of assistance, please contact Cheryl Sullivan, CEO, American Academy of Nursing, at (202) 777-1167 or [Cheryl\\_Sullivan@AANnet.org](mailto:Cheryl_Sullivan@AANnet.org).

Sincerely,