January 7, 2015

Dear Senator,

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), we would like to welcome you to the 114th Congress. As you and your colleagues address our nation’s most pressing priorities, please know that our association stands ready to serve as a resource to you and your staff. As the national voice for baccalaureate and graduate nursing education, AACN’s membership is comprised of over 750 schools of nursing across all 50 states and the District of Columbia that educates over 425,000 nursing students and employs nearly 17,000 faculty members. AACN institutions graduate and employ many of the profession’s finest leaders who are working to improve America’s health through advancements in education, research, and clinical practice.

For the past 45 years, AACN has fostered collaborative relationships with nursing organizations, the broader healthcare community, Congress, and the Administration. Through these partnerships, we have helped improve and advance policies that establish the critical role nurses play in delivering high quality, cost-effective, team-based health care. In recent years, this message has been echoed by the Institute of Medicine, the National Governors Association, the Federal Trade Commission, and many other leading authorities that have noted the importance of ensuring nurses are full partners with other health professionals.

Currently, many Americans and our nation’s Veterans struggle to gain timely access to care. This issue can be resolved through greater utilization of registered nurses (RNs) and advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs). Policy must reflect the expert contributions that RNs, APRNs, and nursing scientists can make to helping solve this mounting challenge. During this Congress, AACN is excited by the opportunity to work with you and your staff on issues related to health care, the workforce, education, and research.

Again, we hope to be of resource to you by offering the expertise of our nation’s top nursing leaders, our expansive database on nursing academia, and our wealth of experience. If AACN can be of any assistance, please contact Dr. Suzanne Miyamoto, Senior Director of Government Affairs and Health Policy, at 202-463-6930, ext. 247 or SMiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu. To learn more about the work of our association, please feel free to visit: http://www.aacn.nche.edu/government-affairs.

Sincerely,

Eileen T. Breslin, PhD, RN, FAAN  Deborah E. Trautman, PhD, RN
President                Chief Executive Officer

ADVANCING HIGHER EDUCATION IN NURSING
One Dupont Circle NW, Suite 530 · Washington, DC 20036 · 202-463-6930 tel · 202-785-8320 fax · www.aacn.nche.edu