March 17, 2015

The Honorable Richard Durbin  
United States Senate  
711 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ben Cardin  
United States Senate  
509 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sherrod Brown  
United States Senate  
713 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Al Franken  
United States Senate  
309 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senate  
302 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Casey  
United States Senate  
393 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
United States Senate  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ed Markey  
218 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Durbin, Brown, Klobuchar, Boxer, Markey, Cardin, Franken, Casey, and Schumer:

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), I would like to thank you for introducing the American Cures Act (S. 289). As the national voice for baccalaureate and graduate nursing education, AACN represents nearly 760 nursing schools that educate over 457,000 students and employ over 17,000 nurse faculty and researchers. Our institutions are committed to developing future generations of nurse scientists needed to investigate and translate research findings into practices that improve the public’s health.

At a time when discretionary spending faces the threat of significant cuts, it is critical that efforts are made to ensure that lifesaving biomedical research can continue. The American Cures Act aims to do so by proposing a mandatory trust fund for the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of Defense health program, and the medical and prosthetics research program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.
AACN commends this legislation and its goals to ensure that biomedical researchers are supported, not only in the current fiscal climate, but for years to come. It is imperative that our nation’s patients, including its Veterans, have access to the discoveries that emerge from this research and improve the quantity and quality of their lives. If our association can be of any assistance to you or your staff, please do not hesitate to contact Suzanne Miyamoto, Director of Government Affairs and Health Policy, at smiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu or 202-463-6930.

Sincerely,

Eileen Breslin, PhD, RN, FAAN
President