



August 13, 2015

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Finance
104 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Finance
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

On behalf of the 41 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community, we write in strong support of Mary Wakefield's, PhD, RN, nomination as Deputy Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Collectively, the Nursing Community coalition represents over one million registered nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, nurse executives, nursing students, nursing faculty, and nurse researchers. Our organizations are committed to improving the health and health care of our nation by collaborating to support advancements in nursing education and practice.

Currently serving as the Acting Deputy Secretary of the HHS, Dr. Wakefield has illustrated her ability to navigate the multifaceted responsibilities of this role. As Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, Dr. Wakefield strived to and achieved great measures of success that strengthened our nation's healthcare workforce and increased healthcare access to our nation's underserved and rural populations. Dr. Wakefield understands the importance of interprofessional collaborations and continues to work across HHS Agencies to find solutions to some of our greatest healthcare challenges. As a registered nurse, Dr. Wakefield poses a vast array of work experience within our healthcare system. Dr. Wakefield's staunch devotion to the health of our nation and her expansive healthcare knowledge will prove instrumental if appointed. She exemplifies the commitment to high-quality care so that it becomes a reality for all Americans, thus creating a healthier tomorrow for our nation. The Nursing Community fully supports her nomination.

We respectfully urge the Senate to confirm Dr. Mary Wakefield as Deputy Secretary of HHS. If our organizations can be of any assistance, or if you have any questions, please contact Suzanne Miyamoto, at Smiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu or 202-463-6930, ext. 247.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing

American Academy of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Heart Failure Nurses
American Association of Neuroscience Nurses
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American Association of Occupational Health Nurses
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Nephrology Nurses' Association
American Nurses Association
American Organization of Nurse Executives
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Society for Pain Management Nursing
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses
Association of Public Health Nurses
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Dermatology Nurses' Association
Emergency Nurses Association
Infusion Nurses Society
International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Association of Hispanic Nurses
National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Neonatal Nurses
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of School Nurses
National Council of State Boards of Nursing
National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers
National League for Nursing
National Nursing Centers Consortium
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs
Oncology Nursing Society
Organization for Associate Degree Nursing
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates

CC:

Senator Chuck Grassley
Senator Mike Crapo
Senator Pat Roberts
Senator Michael Enzi
Senator John Cornyn
Senator John Thune
Senator Richard Burr
Senator Johnny Isakson
Senator Rob Portman
Senator Patrick Toomey
Senator Dan Coats
Senator Dean Heller
Senator Tim Scott
Senator Charles Schumer
Senator Debbie Stabenow
Senator Maria Cantwell
Senator Bill Nelson
Senator Robert Menendez
Senator Thomas Carper
Senator Benjamin Cardin
Senator Sherrod Brown
Senator Michael Bennet
Senator Robert Casey Jr.
Senator Mark Warner