



June 11, 2021

Chiquita Brooks-LaSure  
Administrator  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, MD 21244

Dear Administrator Brooks-LaSure:

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), I want to congratulate you on your confirmation as Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. I enjoyed the opportunity to work with you on the development and passage of the ACA during my time as a health policy fellow working for Speaker Pelosi. I hope we can work together again as you undertake your new role.

As you know, nurses and nursing students are currently serving on the frontlines in the fight against COVID-19 by educating, tracing, testing, and vaccinating our communities. We at AACN have a vested interest in supporting this work, as our 840 member institutions are preparing over 580,000 nursing students to thrive in the workforce. Given the critical role nurses play in addressing public health emergencies and providing evidence-based care, we look forward to working with the Department of Health and Human Services to ensure that nurses are engaged in the national dialogue on improving health and health care.

As the collective voice for academic nursing, AACN serves as the catalyst for excellence and innovation in nursing education, research, and practice. Our 2021-2022 Federal Policy Agenda reflects our core policy values of sustainability, innovation, and inclusivity. We believe these principles are essential for strengthening and advancing our nation's health.

As the implementation of the American Rescue Plan continues, please consider engaging nurses more purposively in this important work. Nursing professionals are the largest segment of the healthcare workforce responsible for providing evidence-based, community-rooted, and cost-effective care. Preparing the next generation of diverse, highly qualified nurses is essential to keeping individuals and communities safe.

My colleagues and I hope to work with you in your new leadership role as you set priorities to strengthen the healthcare workforce. Please know that AACN is here to connect you with nursing leaders, researchers, and policy experts who offer critical insights. I welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss how we can assist in your work to better ensure a strong future nursing workforce. If we can be of any assistance, please contact AACN by reaching out to Dr. Colleen Leners, Director of Policy, at [cleners@aacnnursing.org](mailto:cleners@aacnnursing.org), or Rachel Stevenson, Director of Government Affairs, at [rstevenson@aacnnursing.org](mailto:rstevenson@aacnnursing.org).

Sincerely,

Deborah E. Trautman, PhD, RN, FAAN  
President and Chief Executive Officer