



To The Members of the United States Congress:

We, the undersigned, urge you to support [HR 4601, The National Nurse Act of 2010](#). This legislation would designate the Chief Nurse Officer of the U.S. Public Health Services as the "National Nurse" to elevate the authority and visibility of that office. Chronic conditions such as diabetes, asthma, obesity, and others pose the single greatest threat to the health of Americans and our nation's economy. Nurses provide key services for the prevention and management of these conditions and this legislation is necessary to support further work needed to promote prevention, improve outcomes, and guide national, state and local efforts in addressing the nation's health.

This is the ideal time to make the Office of the National Nurse a reality. The current administration and Congress have a clear commitment to wellness promotion and illness prevention. There is convincing evidence that American health-care reform can be dramatically advanced by deploying our greatest and most trusted national health resource, America's nurses. Establishing the Office of the National Nurse would be a practical first step in publicly acknowledging the need for a focus on wellness and prevention. This legislation would provide the nation with a trusted professional representative from nursing to kickoff the move to prevention in whatever form of health-care system our lawmakers deliver.

The National Nurse would provide a visible nurse leader to advocate for enhanced prevention efforts for all communities. Further, we recognize the potential of having the National Nurse as a representative who would meet with health care leaders to determine ways to address continued health disparities and poor health literacy.

We, as organizations and individuals, support this legislation as a means to achieve the goals of better health, decreased health disparity and improved health literacy and look forward to working with you on this important issue. We applaud your efforts in highlighting the important contribution of nurses and in your advocacy of improvement of the nation's health. We strongly urge your support of [HR 4601, The National Nurse Act of 2010](#). To sign on as a co sponsor to this legislation, please call Christa Shively at x 54811.

Thank you for your consideration and please call upon us if we can be of further support as this bill moves forward.

Signatures/Organizations