April 1, 2019

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
2306 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Peter King
302 Cannon House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Johnson and King,

On behalf of the Visiting Nurse Associations of America (VNAA), I would like to thank you for sponsoring the National Nurse Act of 2019 (H.R.1597 / S. 696), as well as express our support of this legislation. If passed by Congress, this legislation would designate the Chief Nurse Officer of the U.S. Public Health Service as the "National Nurse for Public Health" to elevate the authority and visibility of this position.

VNAA is a national association that supports, promotes and advocates for community-based home health and hospice providers. As safety net providers, VNAA members provide care to all patients regardless of their ability to pay or the severity of their illness and serve a mixture of Medicare, Medicaid, privately insured and charity care patients.

Now more than ever, nurses must continue to be proactive in the fight against illness and disease. We recognize the potential of having the National Nurse for Public Health as a representative who would meet with health care leaders to identify national health priorities, encourage volunteerism, and work to address disparities and health literacy. We thank you for introducing this legislation and are ready to work with you and other health care advocates to help move this legislation forward.

Sincerely,

Danielle Pierotti, RN, PhD, CENP
Acting President and CEO