



February 7, 2019

The Honorable Diana DeGette
Chair
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Ranking Member
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
U.S. House of Representatives
2322 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeGette and Ranking Member Guthrie:

On behalf of the 34 undersigned Nursing Community Coalition organizations, representing the cross section of nursing education, research, practice, and regulation, we appreciate the Subcommittee's work to examine and ensure the health and wellness of immigrant children.

As a profession, we are committed to the patient, the family, the community, and the populations our members serve. At the core of our education is holistic care that encompasses the physical and mental well-being of all—at any age and in any location. It is well documented that when immigrant children are detained and separated from their parents, they can develop toxic stress, which can adversely impact their development.^{1,2} Nurses are empowered to protect the most vulnerable populations. Children of immigrant families experiencing this stress are the embodiment of those our profession has committed to protect through compassionate and evidence-based care.

Our profession requests that action is taken to protect the health of immigrant children. Their young minds, their health, and their ability to thrive in the future is of utmost importance. If the Nursing Community Coalition can be of any assistance, please contact the coalition's Executive Director, Rachel Stevenson, rstevenson@thenursingcommunity.org or at 202-463-6930.

Sincerely,
Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
American Academy of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Nursing

¹ American Academy of Pediatrics. *AAP Statement Opposing the Border Security and Immigration Reform Act*. Retrieved from: <https://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/Pages/AAPStatementOpposingBorderSecurityandImmigrationReformAct.aspx>

² Jack P. Shonkoff, Andrew S. Garner, et al. "The Lifelong Effects of Early Childhood Adversity and Toxic Stress." *Pediatrics*. Volume 129, Issue 1. Retrieved from: <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/129/1/e232>.

American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Nephrology Nurses Association
American Nurses Association
American Organization of Nurse Executives
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association, Inc.
American Public Health Association, Public Health Nursing Section
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses
Association of Public Health Nurses
Association of Veterans Affairs Nurse Anesthetists
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Incorporated
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service
Infusion Nurses Society
International Association of Forensic Nurses
International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses
National Association of Hispanic Nurses
National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Neonatal Nurses
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 Nurse-Led Care Consortium
Oncology Nursing Society
Organization for Associate Degree Nursing
Society of Pediatric Nurses