

March 27, 2019

Mary Wakefield, PhD, RN
Co-Chair
Committee on The Future of Nursing
2020-2030
Health and Medicine Division
The National Academies of Sciences,
Engineering, and Medicine
Keck Center
500 Fifth St. NW
Washington, DC 20001

David R. Williams, PhD, MPH
Co-Chair
Committee on The Future of Nursing
2020-2030
Health and Medicine Division
The National Academies of Sciences,
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Keck Center
500 Fifth St. NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Co-Chairs Wakefield and Williams:

As the oldest nursing organization in the United States, the National League for Nursing (NLN) thanks you for the opportunity for NLN President Rumay Alexander, EdD, RN, and FAAN, to provide public comments to the Committee on the Future of Nursing 2020-2030 on March 19, 2019. The NLN promotes excellence in nursing education to build a strong and diverse nursing workforce to advance the health of the nation and the global community. The League represents more than 1,200 nursing schools, 40,000 members, and 25 regional constituent leagues.

Dr. Alexander's comments focused on transforming nursing education, care of vulnerable populations – a part of population health, innovation in simulation and technology, and the advancement of the science of nursing education. We are submitting a written copy of her public comments to the committee for the record.

Transforming nursing education

The League continues to promote nursing education as an advanced practice role and was the first national nursing organization to assert that the nurse educator role requires specialized preparation and developed core competencies for the nurse educator. The NLN also developed the academic nurse educator certification (CNE) a decade ago to establish nursing education as a specialty area of practice. While different doctoral programs will emphasize practice, research, and education to varying extents, it is imperative that all doctoral programs prepare nurse educators to teach in both academic and practice environments.

The NLN vision is to act as a catalyst to strengthen nursing education's capacity to prepare nurses for the development of viable, comprehensive and culturally appropriate care in a global context. As nursing education is charged with the responsibility to prepare nurses to enter a workforce that is complex, uncertain, and constantly evolving, the NLN recognizes that a critical goal for the future is to endorse

academic progression options for all nurses. The licensed practical/vocational (LPN/LVN) workforce addresses a significant voice in the health care provider continuum as they provide safe, quality patient-centered, evidence-based care to vulnerable groups across the health care spectrum. The League calls for a timely and inclusive way to support and work with our LPN/LVN colleagues.

Care of Vulnerable Populations—A Part of Population Health

The NLN believes that nurses provide services from the cradle to the grave and that the quality of care should not be determined by one's zip code or community. Diversity and safe, quality health care are inseparable. Diversity encourages self-awareness and respect for all persons as well as encompasses organizational, institutional, and system-wide behaviors in nursing, nursing education, and practice. It is imperative that all institutional leaders create academic environments where diverse faculty, staff, and students can flourish. There must be a willingness to challenge implicit and explicit bias including institutional racism that promotes micro-inequities, which act as barriers to achieve diversity in nursing and nursing education.

Nurses, on the frontlines of healthcare, are uniquely positioned to assess for social determinants of health and positively address health equity. Nurses can lead the nation in strategies to promote health equity and embrace this new leadership role through the use of interprofessional collaboration, advocacy, political involvement, and community partnerships.

From pre-conception to aging populations, the environment is a contributor in health and illness. Climate change highlights the critical need for us to consider the consequences of these environmental changes on health. It is essential that nurses responsibly recognize and address the environmental hazards that might affect themselves, their patients, and the community at large. The NLN supports the integration of environmental health policy into nursing education, practice, and research.

Innovation in Simulation and Technology

Teaching with and about emerging technology is the future of nursing education. Providing nursing care in a highly technological, connected work environment is the future of nursing practice. Nursing curricula and teaching strategies need to teach with and about technology to better inform health care interventions that improve health care outcomes and prepare the nursing workforce. Through corporate partnerships and collaborations with other providers, nurse educators play a vital role in preparing our nation's diverse nursing workforce to enhance patient care outcomes in a shifting health care environment.

Advancement of the Science of Nursing Education

Advancement of the science of nursing education is foundational to excellence in nursing education; the process of teaching and learning must be informed by research.

The NLN supports the policies and practices necessary to acquire the skill, passion, and capacity to build a scientific body of knowledge that enhances all types of nursing education programs and ultimately improves patient, family, and community outcomes. The NLN has developed research priorities in nursing education to close the gap between education and practice and promote the role of nurses as scientists. The NLN advocates for stronger collaborative partnerships between education and practice to enhance positive patient outcomes.

Thank you again for providing the NLN with the opportunity to present public comments to the committee both in person and in writing. If you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to contact Christine Murphy, the NLN's director of public policy and advocacy, at 202-909-2533 or cmurphy@nlm.org.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Beverly Malone', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Beverly Malone, PhD, RN, FAAN
Chief Executive Officer

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