



**National League
for Nursing**

June 17, 2015

The Honorable Mark Warner
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Johnny Isakson
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

On behalf of the National League for Nursing (NLN), I applaud you for introducing S. 1549, the *Care Planning Act of 2015*, to provide advanced illness care coordination services for Medicare beneficiaries. 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 26 regional constituent leagues.

Fundamental to the nursing profession and the NLN is the principle that all individuals must have equitable access to comprehensive health and wellness care addressing all medical conditions. Well-functioning health care teams have been shown to improve access to care, increase quality of care and health outcomes, provide greater efficiencies, reduce costs, amend provider shortages, and grow professional satisfaction. Interprofessional team-based education and care are integral to creating a better health system to provide high quality health care at all life stages especially at the end of life. The *Care Planning Act of 2015* gives people with serious illness the freedom to make more informed choices with members of their health care team. As research has shown, such care coordination is directly associated with improved outcomes.

The National League for Nursing looks forward to working with you to move the *Care Planning Act of 2015* through the legislative process. Should you have any questions or need more information, please feel free to contact me or Christine Murphy, the NLN's director of public policy and advocacy at 202-909-2533 or via email at cmurphy@nl.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