



National League
for **Nursing**

March 25, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
Executive Office of the President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the National League for Nursing (NLN), the oldest nursing organization in the United States, I want to thank you, Vice President Mike Pence, and the members of your Coronavirus Task Force for your efforts to respond to the public health emergency facing our nation in the current COVID-19 pandemic. Representing more than 1,200 nursing schools, 40,000 members, and 25 regional constituent leagues, the NLN is dedicated to educating and clinically preparing the nurses that are on the frontlines of our health system's efforts to prevent the spread of this deadly virus and to provide the essential diagnoses and treatment for those infected by the disease. The League promotes excellence in nursing education to build a strong and diverse nursing workforce to advance the health of our nation and the global community.

I know you are keenly aware of the significant challenges our health system is facing in the critically important task of ensuring that nurses, healthcare professionals and other first responders have the personal protective equipment (PPE) that is essential to ensure their safety and that of their families and their patients. The members of the NLN are greatly concerned that nurses across all practice settings and facilities continue to face severe shortages of all PPE, leaving many unprotected and potentially infected by the virus.

While your Administration has announced that PPE production is ramping up and called on states to negotiate directly with manufacturers, the NLN maintains that nurses and other health care providers should never be placed in a position where they don't have the protective equipment needed to safely do their jobs. There must be a mechanism for States to acquire PPE if they are having trouble negotiating on their own for the proper quantities or at a cost that is appropriate.

On behalf of the members of the NLN, all nurses and nurse educators, we urge you to continue to take every possible step to ensure that every nurse, other healthcare workers, and first responders have access to the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) they need to safely perform their essential duties. We urge you to require the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to provide evidence-based information on the transmission of the virus to healthcare providers so that nurses can make the best decisions on the appropriate level of protection. In addition, we strongly support the immediate distribution of PPE to frontline nurses and other healthcare personnel from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) and requiring that sufficient levels of PPE should always be maintained at the SNS to meet the maximum possible public health needs before, during, and following an outbreak, pandemic, or other emergency.

The nation's nurses and other healthcare providers are responding to this public health crisis – they deserve appropriate support to care for patients safely and effectively, including clear evidenced-based protocols and the highest level of protection in order to treat infected individuals and prevent the spread of the coronavirus. The NLN strongly urges you to exhaust every feasible option available to increase PPE production and prioritize distribution to frontline providers and health care facilities.

Thank you for your efforts to protect the public health and support the nation's nurses and other health care professionals. We are eager to work with you to identify and implement policies to address this crisis and would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss them further.

Sincerely,

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