



November 17, 2020

Dear President-Elect Biden,

I am impressed with the breadth and depth of public health experts who will counsel you as part of the coronavirus advisory board. I also applaud the addition of our colleague, Mary Wakefield, PhD, RN, FAAN, to the Department of Health and Human Services Agency Review Team.

As president of the [American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing \(AAACN\)](#), I urge you to consider adding registered nurses, particularly ambulatory care nurses, to the coronavirus advisory board. Our role has been crucial since the pandemic began, and will be critical during the vaccine distribution stage.

[Ambulatory care nurses](#) are highly qualified and skilled health care experts who practice in a wide range of outpatient settings including health centers, government institutions, universities, military clinics, and communities. They have been frontline providers since the COVID-19 pandemic began, working as clinicians, [telehealth nurses](#), [care coordinators](#), researchers, educators, administrators, and top-level executives.

They include top leaders in health care, guiding teams who coordinate care for all populations in both rural and urban settings. They also practice at Federally Qualified Healthcare Centers (FQHCs), Veterans Administration medical clinics, outpatient clinics specific to each branch of the military, physician's offices, schools, health departments, academic medical centers, urgent care centers, and large integrated healthcare systems.

During the pandemic, ambulatory care nurses have played critical roles in delivering services and virtual care, as well as managing testing centers and respiratory specialty clinics. RNs delivering telehealth services not only provide care to those who are immobile or lack transportation and access, but they also ensure patients with COVID-19 are triaged appropriately. RNs are key in reaching America's underserved in addition to managing care for the general population.

As you are expanding the coronavirus advisory board or building work groups and teams, I respectfully request you consider adding nursing representation to the advisory board to strengthen and augment your team of experts.

As pandemic efforts continue to focus on mask wearing, testing expansion, managing vulnerable populations and precious resources, and deploying vaccines, a majority of which will be delivered in ambulatory care settings, nurses can help operationalize strategies and interventions for success. During this phase, I can't emphasize enough the importance of patient education and communication – and how nurses are among the most critical and highly trained providers in this area.

I will be glad to connect you to AAACN and ambulatory care nursing leaders who can provide guidance on how to expand and enhance healthcare across all populations during this unprecedented time.



Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Anne Talbot Jessie'.

Anne T. Jessie, DNP, RN  
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cc: Vice-President Elect Kamala Harris; Coronavirus Advisory Board Co-Chairs David A. Kessler, MD; Vivek Murthy, MD, MBA; Marcella Nunez-Smith, MD, MHS