

November 1, 2019

Martin J. Vincent
Office of the Associate Director for Policy
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road NE
Mail Stop D-28
Atlanta, GA 30329

Submitted electronically to <https://www.regulations.gov>

Re: CDC-2018-0082 Surgeon General's Call to Action: "Community Health and Prosperity"

Dear Mr. Vincent,

The American Nurses Association (ANA) is pleased to provide written comment to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), regarding Docket No. CDC-2018-0082 Surgeon General's Call to Action: "Community Health and Prosperity". ANA is the premier organization representing the interests of the nation's 4 million registered nurses (RNs) through its constituent and state nurses associations, organizational affiliates, and individual members. RNs serve in multiple direct care, care coordination, and administrative leadership roles, across the full spectrum of health care settings. RNs provide and coordinate patient care, educate patients and the public about various health conditions, and provide advice and emotional support to patients and their family members. ANA members also include those practicing in the four advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) roles: nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse-midwives and certified registered nurse anesthetists.¹ ANA is dedicated to partnering with health care consumers to improve practices, policies, delivery models, outcomes, and access across the health care continuum.

ANA encourages all nurses and health care professionals to focus on their own personal wellness as they support their communities, patients, friends, and family to do the same. To champion the wellness of nurses, and in turn, workplaces and communities, ANA along with its corporate partners created the [Healthy Nurse, Health Nation™ Grand Challenge](#) (HNHN GC). HNHN, is a social movement designed to transform the health of the nation by improving nurses health in five key areas: physical activity, rest, nutrition, quality of life, and safety. In only the first year, over 25,000 individuals and 350 partner organizations have joined the movement.² As of October 30, 2018, 46,392 individuals and 368 partner

¹ The Consensus Model for APRN Regulation defines four APRN roles: certified nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, certified nurse-midwife and certified registered nurse anesthetist. In addition to defining the four roles, the Consensus Model describes the APRN regulatory model, identifies the titles to be used, defines specialty, describes the emergence of new roles and population foci, and presents strategies for implementation.

² American Nurses Association, Healthy Nurse, Healthy Nation: <https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/hnhn/>

organizations have joined and more continue to join the challenge each day.³ An example of a highly successful program through the HNHN GC was a time-limited pilot at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC Health) where nurses have improved their nutritional health by tripling their daily consumption of fruits and vegetables. After 60 days, 17% of nurses consume at least five fruits and vegetables a day and 72% consume at least three or more servings.⁴

Because of the investment from hospital leadership and private partnerships, more MUSC Health nurses are meeting the recommended daily intake of fruits and vegetables which is a variable leading to healthier weights, prevention of chronic disease, increased productivity, and potentially fewer sick days taken.⁵ Healthier nurses leading by example will provide inspiration to their colleagues, patients, families, friends, and communities to make positive impacts in their own lives.

Along with ANA and HNHN, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) has made a deep commitment to nursing; investing more than \$592 million in programs to sustain, grow, and reshape the nurse workforce. RWJF, along with its partners helps to fund demonstration projects, research, learning networks and communities, public education and strategic communications, community engagement and coalition-building, training and fellowship programs, and technical assistance.⁶

RWJF, American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) which represents 38 million members, and the AARP Foundation recognize the role that nurses play in the ability for everyone to live a healthier life. Therefore, they have funded programs to strengthen nursing roles in the community and workplace. The Future of Nursing: Campaign for Action envisions a health care system where nurses contribute to the full extent of their capabilities to build a culture of health.⁷ The campaigns' work has a focused objective of building healthier communities among other areas. All 50 states and the District of Columbia have a state action coalition working to transform health care and communities. Through grants and awards, nurses and action coalitions can share innovative ideas to build healthier spaces throughout the country. As [the most honest and ethical profession](#), nurses are the stewards of health in schools, workplaces, healthcare facilities, and other community settings.⁸ Investing in nurses is an investment for all communities.

³ American Nurses Association, Department of Nursing Practice and Work Environment, Staff, Personal Communication, October 30, 2018.

⁴ American Nurses Association, MUSC Health triples nurses' daily fruit, veggie consumption in 60-day pilot (2018, Oct. 9) Retrieved from: <https://www.nursingworld.org/news/news-releases/2018/musc-health-triples-nurses-daily-fruit-veggie-consumption-in-60-day-pilot/>

⁵ Time Money, *6 Surprising Reasons Eating Right Pays Off* (2014, Aug 11) Retrieved from: <http://time.com/money/3093072/healthy-eating-financial-benefits-health-costs/>

⁶ Robert Woods Johnson Foundation: <https://www.rwjf.org/en/how-we-work/grants-and-grant-programs.html>

⁷ Campaign for Action: <https://www.rwjf.org/en/how-we-work/grants-explorer/featured-programs/future-of-nursing--campaign-for-action.html>

⁸ Gallup *Nurses Keep Health Lead as Most Honest, Ethical Profession* (2017, Dec 26) Retrieved from: https://news.gallup.com/poll/224639/nurses-keep-healthy-lead-honest-ethical-profession.aspx?g_source=CATEGORY_SOCIAL_POLICY_ISSUES&g_medium=topic&g_campaign=tiles

Furthermore, the American Academy of Nursing (AAN) recognizes nurse-designed models of care and interventions that have transformed healthcare and communities in its [Edge Runners](#) Initiative.⁹ Recently, AAN recognized Dr. Gaylord for providing comprehensive care to children through an innovative school-based model. Eleven schools are served in Knox County through direct care or telehealth services to all children age 0 to 21 that are or will be students.¹⁰ In 1995, when the health care center opened, the focus was primary care by APRNs, RNs, and student nurses. However, in 2011, there was a shift to include interprofessional practices to meet the social, academic, and mental health needs of the children. This expansion was made possible through a three-year Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention Program grant. Patients and their families have reported high satisfaction with the care provided. The program has also shown to increase access to care including screening, diagnostic, and treatment exams, immunizations, physical health visits, and mental health visits, while reducing the visits to the emergency room. It has been estimated that a cost savings of \$300 or more for the same diagnosis at the health care clinic rather than at the emergency room for each of the 2,500 plus acute care concerns seen annually.¹¹ Nurses are on the frontlines caring for individuals, families, and communities. Investing in new roles and strong workforce development ensures that all communities prosper without contemplation of geographic location, socioeconomic status, or cultural considerations.

We appreciate the opportunity to share the successes of nursing in community settings with the CDC and hope to continue to work together as a partner and to contribute nursing expertise to this important discussion. If you have any questions, please contact Ingrida Lusic, Vice President, ANA Policy and Government Affairs, at 301.628.5081 or Ingrid.Lusic@ana.org.

Sincerely,



Debbie Dawson Hatmaker, PhD, RN, FAAN
Chief Nursing Officer/EVP

cc: Pamela Cipriano, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN, ANA President
Loressa Cole, DNP, MBA, RN, NEA-BC, FACHE, ANA Chief Executive Officer

⁹ American Academy of Nurses Retrieved from: <http://www.aannet.org/initiatives/edge-runners>

¹⁰ <http://www.aannet.org/initiatives/edge-runners/profiles/edge-runners--interprofessional-practice-vine-school>

¹¹ <http://www.aannet.org/initiatives/edge-runners/profiles/edge-runners--interprofessional-practice-vine-school>