



**National League**  
for **Nursing**

August 7, 2020

The Honorable Lauren Underwood  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1118 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Underwood:

On behalf of the National League for Nursing (NLN), the oldest nursing organization in the United States, I am writing to thank you for your leadership in introducing the “Community Immunity During COVID–19 Act of 2020.” As you know, the League represents more than 1,200 nursing schools, 40,000 members, and 25 regional constituent leagues. Our public policy agenda is centered on education, access, diversity and workforce, and we are pleased to endorse this important legislation.

Our members were very concerned by the May 15 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s report that immunization rates for all recommended childhood vaccines declined significantly after the declaration of a national emergency in response to COVID-19, putting children and communities at greater risk for outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases. As the pandemic stretches into the fall, we are worried that it could converge with the annual flu season, potentially overwhelming our health care system’s already overstretched capacity and putting our nation’s nurses and health professionals in greater danger of infection.

Your legislation would provide critical support for community initiatives to promote recommended vaccinations during this pandemic. By helping state and local public health departments promote vaccinations recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, this bill would help to strengthen partnerships between nurses and other health care providers, schools, pharmacies, and community organizations to ensure that families know about health coverage options and immunization programs, as well as to develop vaccine counseling guidance for providers and combat misinformation about vaccines, including an eventual COVID-19 vaccine.

In short, the National League for Nursing thanks you for bringing your perspective as a nurse to inform our nation’s health care policies including addressing the important need to promote vaccinations for children, adolescents and adults as the nation confronts the current public health crisis. The NLN is pleased to endorse the “Community Immunity During COVID–19 Act of 2020” and looks forward to working with you to see it become law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beverly Malone", is written over a horizontal line.

Beverly Malone, PhD, RN, FAAN  
Chief Executive Officer