



ACADEMY OF MEDICAL-SURGICAL NURSES

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August 6, 2021

Sen. Rob Portman
448 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Sen. Portman,

On behalf of the 12,000 members of the Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses (AMSUN), I write in support of the “Make PPE in America Act” provision of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (substitute HR 3684, Secs. 70951-53), which you originally introduced as S 1306, and urge its enactment into law.

AMSUN is the sole national organization exclusively representing medical-surgical nurses. In hospitals and in a wide variety of environments, we are on the front lines of care. When COVID-19 patients arrive in the hospital, many receive their lifesaving care in medical-surgical units. AMSUN is the recognized leader in medical-surgical nursing, and its mission is to promote quality patient care through professional development, certification, scholarship, and advocacy.

A reliable, accessible stockpile of personal protective equipment (PPE) is fundamental to ensuring safety of patients and of professionals providing care in the event of a major regional or national crisis to health. Unfortunately, the COVID pandemic revealed that PPE in the National Strategic Stockpile was unmaintained and unavailable for use when needed. Further, the United States was dependent upon suppliers overseas to make PPE available for health care delivery in U.S. communities for the protection of nurses and other health care professionals so that they could be safe, and keep patients safe, while providing needed care. For months into the pandemic, medical-surgical nurses and other nurses and health care professionals were left without needed PPE, vulnerable to catching and spreading COVID-19 among one another and patients. This vulnerability was and is preventable.

As part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the Make PPE in America Act would send a clear demand signal to U.S. manufacturers by authorizing federal procurement of PPE over at least two years. It would define PPE to include surgical masks, respirator masks and powered air purifying respirators and required filters, face shields and protective eyewear, gloves, disposable and reusable surgical and isolation gowns, head and foot coverings, and other gear or clothing used to protect an individual from the transmission of disease. It would direct the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to develop and report a long-term supply and demand projection and strategy. And, to ensure rotation of PPE for reliable supply management, it authorizes the National Strategic Stockpile to transfer and release supplies within a year before their expiration.

Thank you and your colleagues for your attention to this important strategy for keeping safe both patients and the professionals who provide them care. We strongly support the Make PPE in America Act and urge its enactment into law. To follow up, please contact our legislative consultant Frank Purcell at frank.purcell@cardinalwaypoint.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dr. Summer Bryant". The signature is written in a dark ink and is centered below the word "Sincerely,".

Dr. Summer Bryant, DNP, RN, CMSRN
President, AMSN