

March 9, 2021

The Honorable Susan Wild
1027 Longworth House Office Building
Washington D.C., 20515

Dear Congresswoman Wild:

On behalf of the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce's Healthcare Committee and the Chamber's over 6,000 members, I am writing today to express the Committee's support for your legislation, H.R. 331, the Nurses CARE Act. We believe this legislation will go a long way in addressing the current shortage of nurses in the United States and provide relief to those temporary nurse aides who gained certification during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, our nation's medical resources have been stretched thin. This is especially true for the millions of people working in our healthcare sector. We asked them to sacrifice so much with the promise that help is on the way. For some, that help was more personal protective equipment or more medical equipment to treat those who were battling the virus. For others, that meant more people to help mount a fight against a hidden enemy. With the introduction of your bill, we believe we are finally taking a step in the right direction of bolstering the number of frontline healthcare workers to put COVID-19 behind us.

In the Lehigh Valley, the healthcare industry continues to be the number one employer, making up approximately 20% of workforce in the area. Registered Nurses are the number one occupation in the Lehigh Valley, but the demand continues to outpace the supply. We strongly believe your bill will make a significant impact on the current nursing shortage we are seeing not only in the Lehigh Valley, but also around the United States. Ensuring those who are already working and caring for sick patients can continue to work after the pandemic is the right thing to do and we believe will ultimately lead to better health outcomes.

As the Healthcare Committee for the sixth largest Chamber of Commerce in the United States, our mission is to support policies that are not only good for business, but also for the thousands of workers in the Lehigh Valley. We strongly believe that this bill fits that criteria and we thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Thank you for taking time to read our letter of support. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at bbloss@rlbaccountants.com or contact the Chamber's Healthcare Committee Liaison, Matt Powell, at mattp@lehighvalleychamber.org.

Sincerely,

William E. Bloss

William E. Bloss
Chair, Healthcare Committee
Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce