

February 24, 2011

Secretary Bruce Greenstein  
Department of Health and Hospitals  
4<sup>th</sup> St.  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Dear Secretary Greenstein:

On behalf of the 54,000 Registered Nurses of Louisiana, and particularly the Louisiana State Nurses Association (LSNA) members and Board of Directors, I would like to express our appreciation for the opportunity to meet with you and your staff regarding the proposed transformation of Louisiana's Medicaid Program into Coordinated Care Networks.

We understand resources are limited and health care needs are great. We join you in supporting the objectives of an effective reform program, anchored upon evidence-based disease management standards with measurable goals and outcomes. We support provider-demonstrated accountability for services. We acknowledge and support the need for expanded utilization of Information Technology in care delivery, data collection and outcome reporting. Creating an environment of coordinated care, including patient education, is consistent with nursing's goal of providing our patients with a spectrum of services which can be tailored to meet the individual's health care needs. As we understand, the program will focus on enhancing preventive services and effective chronic care management.

We support Coordinated Care Networks as a framework to initiate a reformed system of care. We commit to you that we will continue to work with you and your staff to address any concerns as this framework develops.

LSNA looks forward to continued active participation in the future of Louisiana's healthcare to ensure access to affordable and high-quality health care for our citizens. We believe that this is an opportunity for nurses to participate in collaborative efforts with other members of the health care team to redesign and improve health systems.

Respectfully,

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Denise Danna,  
President