



March 12, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
H-222, US Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-230, US Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Republican Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
H-204, US Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Senate Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-221, US Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy, and Leader Schumer,

Given the pandemic declaration by the World Health Organization, the American Nurses Association (ANA), representing the nation's 4 million registered nurses, believes a more definitive statement from The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) about the transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) is needed.

The safety and health of our frontline clinicians is vital to keeping communities healthy. N95 masks are approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to provide the minimum appropriate protections to healthcare workers including nurses. While ANA acknowledges the challenges of ensuring an adequate personal protective equipment (PPE) supply, we are concerned that CDC recommendations are based solely on supply chain and manufacturing challenges.

The Administration under the new guidelines for respirators and masks during the pandemic must investigate and communicate on the transmission mode for COVID-19 so that decisions about appropriate PPE are based on the best information available. **ANA urges Congress to include language in the next supplemental package to ensure the CDC communicates to the public the data-driven transmission science behind this decision.** Nurses and other health care workers deserve to be ease during this pandemic.

The nation's nurses are prepared and ready to respond, and they need proper support to care for patients safely and effectively. This includes clear, evidenced-based protocols and the highest level of protection in order to care for infected individuals as well as prevent the spread of the coronavirus in health care facilities and the community.

We look forward to working with you during this critical time as we work to protect the health of our nation. If you have any questions, please contact Ingrida Lusic, Vice President of Policy and Government Affairs, at 301-628-5051 or [Ingrid.Lusic@ana.org](mailto:Ingrid.Lusic@ana.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Loressa Cole".

Loressa Cole, DNP, MBA, RN, NEA-BC, FACHE  
Chief Executive Officer