**Sample letter to Congress re nursing shortage, pandemic response.**

To: EXAMPLE: The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
 Us. House of Representatives (or Senate or Congress)

 Full Street. ADDRESS

Dear Congressperson:

As a constituent, registered nurse (RN), and member of the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses (AANN), I respectfully urge Congress to provide critical investments in pandemic preparedness and address the dire nurse shortage crisis happening across the country as you advance legislation this fall.

Nurses have served as the backbone of our country’s health care system during this pandemic, overcoming personal protective equipment shortages and placing their own health and safety at risk. As I write to you today, nurses continue to roll up their sleeves to get the job done as the nation experiences yet another COVID-19 surge.

As a country, we cannot take our nation’s nurses for granted. Nurses are facing severe burnout and fatigue as the pandemic rages on throughout the nation. Policymakers must recognize and address nurses’ unique mental health needs and work to implement strategies to ensure needs are met under all conditions. This is a critical component in ensuring the current nursing workforce is supported in the short-term but also the long term. Thousands of nurses are worn down by the stress of working around the clock. Colleagues are leaving the profession, decreasing working hours, and shifting areas of practice as strategies to protect their mental health. This will have a large impact on the quality and delivery of health care in our country.

Our country’s pandemic preparedness infrastructure has been underfunded for decades, and this impact has been highlighted and exacerbated throughout the COVID-19 public health emergency. In President Biden’s Fiscal Year 2022 budget proposal, the Administration called for a $30 billion investment in pandemic preparedness. Robust investments in pandemic preparedness are essential to ensuring our ability to address future public health emergencies and avoid many of the tragedies nurses and our health care colleagues have faced in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As Congress continues its work on budget reconciliation, infrastructure, and appropriations measures, I respectfully urge you to also ensure that major investments in supporting the nursing workforce are prioritized and maximized to not only address the future but to ensure the current shortage of nurses is addressed. We stand ready to collaborate with you. Our nation’s nurses have consistently been there for our families, friends, and communities, and now it is time for Congress to be there for nurses.

Sincerely (or other closing)

Your name

Return address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_