



February 3, 2016

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Chairman,
Senate Finance Committee
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member,
Senate Finance Committee
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Mary Wakefield, PhD, RN Nomination for Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

On behalf of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), I write to convey our strong support for the nomination of Dr. Mary Wakefield to be Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

As one of the highest-ranking nurses in the federal government, Dr. Wakefield understands both the challenges and opportunities stemming from our rapidly evolving health care system. She currently serves as Acting Deputy Secretary of the Department of HHS and has illustrated her commitment to enhancing and improving the health and wellbeing of all Americans. In her previous position as administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Dr. Wakefield helped to strengthen the health care workforce and improve access to care, particularly for uninsured, isolated, and medically vulnerable patients. She has also been a visionary leader in her efforts outside the government. In her capacity as a nurse and a nurse educator, she has been an advocate for rural health care and an expert in health care quality and patient safety.

ONS is a professional organization of over 39,000 registered nurses and other health care providers dedicated to excellence in patient care, education, research, and administration in oncology nursing. ONS members are a diverse group of professionals who represent a variety of roles, practice settings, and subspecialty practice areas.

Please know that ONS and its members very much appreciate your consideration of Dr. Wakefield as the nominee for Deputy Secretary of HHS and hopes that the Senate acts quickly to approve her appointment. We encourage you to contact Alec Stone, MA, MPA, ONS Director of Health Policy, at astone@ons.org should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Margaret Barton-Burke".

Margaret Barton-Burke, PhD, RN, FAAN
President, Oncology Nursing Society