September 27, 2021

The Honorable Grace Meng
2209 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Meng,

On behalf of the American Academy of Nursing (Academy), I write in support of H.R. 4892, the Quiet Communities Act of 2021, which would reestablish the Office of Noise Abatement and Control in the Environmental Protection Agency. The Academy serves the public by advancing health policy through the generation, synthesis, and dissemination of nursing knowledge. Academy Fellows are inducted into the organization for their extraordinary contributions to improve health locally and globally. With more than 2,800 Fellows, the Academy represents nursing’s most accomplished leaders in policy, research, administration, practice, and academia. The Academy’s vision is healthy lives for all people. In promoting the health of all, we have a clear and distinct policy focus on health equity. The Academy is pleased that H.R. 4892 has the potential to improve the health and well-being of millions of Americans, including vulnerable and economically disadvantaged groups.

In our position statement on environmental noise exposure, the Academy affirmed that environmental noise is a serious public health hazard that contributes to numerous adverse health outcomes and must be addressed.¹ The noise pollution originating from vehicles, construction, air traffic, and other sources has been shown to contribute to conditions such as noise-induced hearing loss and sleep disorders, as well as adverse outcomes in cardiovascular health and cognitive functions.² This hazard has only grown more significant as research has indicated that minority and economically disadvantaged groups in the United States face elevated rates of environmental noise.³

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to addressing environmental noise exposure in our country. We stand ready to support you in achieving our mutual goal of improving the health of all and addressing health inequalities. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact the Academy’s Senior Director of Policy, Christine Murphy, at cmurphy@AANnet.org or 202-777-1174.

Sincerely,

Eileen Sullivan-Marx, PhD, RN, FAAN
President