



## **Membership in the World Health Organization Must Remain a Priority for Global Health**

*A Statement from the American Academy of Nursing*

**Washington, D.C. (June 2, 2020)** — The American Academy of Nursing (Academy) reinforces its [statement](#) made on April 17, 2020 that the United States involvement in the World Health Organization (WHO) is vital to global access to resources and protecting global health security. During a worldwide pandemic, now is not the time to terminate the long-standing relationship our country has had with the WHO since its inception 72 years ago.

As we have seen first-hand and in countless times before, the interconnectedness of our world means that a virus can spread rapidly, permeating the borders between nations. The WHO helps to ensure that effective treatments and vaccines also spread quickly through international coordination and collaboration. This work cannot be interrupted and the Academy calls on Congress as well as leaders within the Trump Administration to divert from finalizing any measures that would take us down the path of terminating our country's important relationship with the WHO. This decision would have long-term implications on the current pandemic and future healthcare crises.

Global health diplomacy allows nations to work together for improved health in all communities. This directly impacts the ability to collectively reduce health disparities and advance health equity. The U.S. commitment to the WHO during this pandemic, and for health in the future, must remain strong.

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National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2017. [Global Health and the Future Role of the United States. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.](#) <https://doi.org/10.17226/24737>.  
American Academy of Nursing Policy Brief: [Global health diplomacy: An integrative review of the literature and implications for nursing](#). Nursing Outlook 61 (March 2013) 85-92.

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### **About the American Academy of Nursing**

The [American Academy of Nursing](#) serves the public by advancing health policy and practice 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.

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