For Immediate Release

Statement from the Tri-Council for Nursing
The Imperative Need for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging in Nursing

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 4, 2024 – As part of nursing's ongoing commitment to advance health equity and advocate for quality care, the Tri-Council for Nursing — the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), the American Nurses Association (ANA), the American Organization for Nursing Leadership (AONL), the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN), and the National League for Nursing (NLN) — calls for unwavering support for diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) within nursing education, practice and all other healthcare sectors.

As a result of numerous legislative efforts across the country, DEIB is under immense pressure with threats or challenges to prohibit vital programs, training, and education at multiple levels. DEIB initiatives are critical in developing and maintaining a nursing workforce capable of providing high-quality and culturally relevant care for all patients and communities, especially underserved populations. DEIB principles are integral to addressing the stark disparities in health outcomes disproportionately affecting communities of color, economically disadvantaged populations, rural communities, and other marginalized individuals.

By integrating DEIB education and programs in academic and health care institutions, we prepare nurses and nursing students to understand and effectively address the complex needs of an increasingly diverse patient population. An inclusive work environment helps recruit and retain a diverse nursing workforce reflective of the varying cultural perspectives, backgrounds, and lived experiences of the patients and communities that they serve. Effective communication and enhanced trust between the patient and nurse lead to improved patient engagement and health literacy — all key factors in successful health outcomes.

DEIB programs are critical to improving nursing education and practice, overall benefiting the quality of care provided to communities nationwide. DEIB is foundational to the health and well-being of all individuals and is a crucial part of the Tri-Council's mission to advance the nursing profession.

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*The **Tri-Council for Nursing** is an alliance between the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the American Nurses Association, the American Organization for Nursing Leadership, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, and the National League for Nursing. While each organization has its own constituent membership and unique mission, they are united by common values and convene regularly for the purpose of dialogue and consensus building, to provide stewardship within the profession of nursing.*

These organizations represent nurses in practice, nurse executives and nursing educators. The Tri-Council's diverse interests encompass the nursing work environment, health care legislation, and policy, quality of health care, nursing education, practice, research and leadership across all segments of the health delivery system.

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