

Nurses see human cost of COVID-19 policy

Letters to the Editor

ORLANDO SENTINEL
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Nurses, the most trusted profession, advocate and care for people, families, and populations, with science and heart. Health is everything. Health is political.

Nurses continue to witness the damage of the Trump administration's COVID-19 mismanagement, caring for patients with gasping for air and mourning 1,700 health-care workers killed by COVID-19 across the nation.

Trump willingly exposes those around him, sends misleading messages and refuses the expertise of scientists and public-health leaders. We go into the coronavirus battlefield without appropriate protective gear (PPE), crippled by a national shortage due to the lack of a national plan. Trump withdrew the United States from the World Health Organization when we should be partners in the global effort to beat this virus.

Nurses witness how dismantling the Affordable Care Act, leaving more families without insurance, in the midst of a pandemic, economic meltdown, and record-high unemployment hurts the uninsured and weakens our health system.

We have seen refugee families fleeing violence and famine, confined to detention centers which have seen rampant spread of the disease.

We need leadership that unites, not divides us. Together we can be a strong United States for all.

Nancy Rudner *Orlando*