

Sample Letter of Support
Executive Director of a Member Board as Nominee of R. Louise McManus Award

February 18, XXXX

Awards Committee
National Council of State Boards of Nursing
111 E Wacker Drive, Suite 2900
Chicago, IL 60601-4277

Dear Committee Members:

It is with pleasure and an honor that I write this letter of support for this nominee to be the recipient of the R. Louise McManus Award. I have had the privilege to work directly with this nominee in a number of activities of NCSBN, including as a member of the Board of Directors, on committees and also have observed the nominee present in the Delegate Assembly. There are few who can match this individual's sustained and significant contributions through the highest commitment and dedication to the purposes of NCSBN, and XXX is truly deserving of this honor.

This nominee has been an exceptional and active leader in NCSBN. XXX has exhibited leadership throughout involvement on and as a chairperson on numerous committees and appointment and election to the Board of Directors as an area director and as treasurer. As a member of the Board of Directors, I have observed this nominee is well-studied, carefully prepared, and always thoughtful in deliberations. XXX presentations in the Delegate Assembly are comprehensive and easily understood.

This nominee listens carefully and is open to alternatives. As a leader, XXX courageously puts forth possibilities that may not be mainstream but are worthy of consideration. In other words, XXX pushes one to look at all perspectives, even some unlikely. This nominee exhibits a direct demeanor but does not force issues. XXX sense of humor can lighten the moment, especially in awkward and weighty situations. XXX requires sufficient data for decision-making but is ready to move when that need has been satisfied. The outcome is confidence that a decision is well-grounded, bold when the need arises, and attainable. All these skills are requisite for effective leadership. This nominee's leadership skills were acknowledged when XXX was chosen as chairperson of the recent XXXX Committee.

The nominee's active leadership and involvement across a broad spectrum of activities is representative of commitment and dedication to the purposes of NCSBN and improvement of nursing regulation. The nominee has not only supported many NCSBN initiatives but has also brought them into the Member Board operations. The nominee has made the Commitment to Ongoing Regulatory Excellence (CORE) an integral part of the Member Board's self-assessment process and to serve as a basis for quality improvement. XXX has incorporated the Taxonomy of Error, Root Cause Analysis and Practice (TERCAP) into the Member Board's investigation and discipline processes, and has encouraged staff so that state board is one of the highest contributors of cases to the TERCAP project data base. Importantly, the nominee has not only supported but encouraged board members and staff to participate in NCSBN activities and initiatives.

The nominee has demonstrated commitment to the organization's governance as a member of the Board of Directors and membership on the Resolutions Committee. XXX has carried the characteristics of sound governance to the nominee's Member Board, developing a focus that visionary, strategic and future-directed.

This nominee has made a significant impact on public policy and development to enhance the well-being of individuals and communities through involvement with the nominee's Member Board as a staff member, director for education and practice, and associate executive director prior to serving as executive director over a twenty-year span. XXX vision of regulatory excellence through sound public policy is clear and far-reaching, and XXX continuously strives to identify resources and means so that vision is realized. Exemplars are early enactment of the Nurse Licensure Compact by the Member Board and national prominence for a regulatory model of Just Culture. XXX has been an invited speaker at several national events regarding a fair and just culture to encourage and support timely, appropriate consultation and resolution of incidents of patient safety. XXX has impacted nursing education in XXX home state through membership on an advisory committee for a local university and active involvement with the Future of Nursing Action Coalition Coordinating Council. XXX has influenced excellence in nursing practice as a member of a Steering Committee for a Foundation for Nursing Excellence and as a facilitator for a research conference on evidence-based transition to practice.

This nominee's most significant contribution to NCSBN for nearly 20 years is the consistent exceptional passion for regulatory excellence that inspires those around XXX. XXX fosters a culture of inquiry, pushes others to do their best work, and helps others prepare for change. XXX articulates NCSBN's compelling mission again and again.

This nominee is most worthy of the R. Louise McManus Award because of demonstrated active leadership, sincerity of purpose for the improvement of nursing regulation, passion for excellence and significant contributions to the mission and purpose of NCSBN. The nominee deserves the recognition of peers and the prestige of being a member of the select group of individuals who have previously received this award.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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Executive Director