

## Letter of Support to the Philippine Journal of Advanced Nursing

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Through research and publication, the Philippine Journal of Advanced Nursing will allow Filipino nurses to advance their efforts in convincing policymakers and other stakeholders of the need for change in nursing practice and acknowledgment in the Philippines. Nurses face unique challenges and opportunities in the Philippines that are different from those in other countries: (1) shortage of nurses - the Philippines is known for producing a large number of nurses, many of whom work overseas, which has led to a shortage of qualified nurses in the country, particularly in rural areas where healthcare services are often limited; (2) emphasis on community health – many nurses work in community health centers providing primary care services to underserved populations; (3) role in disaster response – nurses provide medical care and support to communities affected by natural disasters such as earthquakes and typhoons; and, (4) limited resources – limited staffing, equipment, and medications which makes it challenging to provide high-quality care to patients, especially in remote and rural areas.

Nurses are critical to the healthcare system and deserve higher salaries. They have an important level of responsibility, specialized knowledge, and skills and are often more cost-effective than other healthcare providers. Nurses often receive low wages for several reasons:

- Historical gender bias
- Supply and demand
- Budget constraints
- Lack of collective bargaining power
- Perception of nursing as a low-skilled profession

It is vital for policymakers, healthcare providers, and the public to recognize the value of nursing and invest in the profession - this may include increasing funding for nursing education programs, improving working conditions for nurses, and advocating for higher salaries and benefits for nurses. Additionally, nurses themselves can advocate for their profession and work to raise awareness about the value of nursing in healthcare.

It is an honor to serve on the Editorial Board of the Philippine Journal of Advanced Nursing. This journal will highlight advanced practice nurses in the Philippines who play a pivotal role in the healthcare system in providing high-quality and specialized patient care across various settings.