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Sue Hassmiller, RN, PhD, FAAN
Director, Future of Nursing; Campaign for Action
Senior Advisor for Nursing
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Susan Reinhard, RN, PHD, FAAN
Senior Vice President and Director
Chief Strategist
Center to Champion Nursing in America

Dear Drs. Hassmiller and Reinhard:

The Rural Health Association of Tennessee is committed to the development of a sustainable plan to implement the IOM Future of Nursing report recommendations in Tennessee.

Since 1995, RHAT has worked to effect a positive change in the health and well-being of all rural people in Tennessee through the proactive involvement of our members, other organizations, and policymakers in identifying and resolving rural health care.

The University of Tennessee Knoxville College of Nursing, working together with the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), will provide excellent partnership resources to assist in the continued development of the healthcare work force.

Our policy statements regarding access to care and health professions education demonstrate our commitment to this issue. In addition, we have worked to strengthen the workforce in rural areas through working with the medical schools in Tennessee to establish the Tennessee Rural Partnership, an organization whose mission is to enhance statewide collaboration on workforce planning to better serve rural and underserved communities and health providers in Tennessee by assisting in the recruitment, placement, and retention of physicians, physician assistants, advanced practice nurses and other health professionals.

We offer our assistance in this endeavor should it be needed.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jill Beason". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Jill Beason, RN, BSN
President