

November 21, 2022

The Honorable Richard Neal  
Chairman  
House Ways and Means Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady  
Ranking Member  
House Ways and Means Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Chairman  
Energy and Commerce Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Ranking Member  
Energy and Commerce Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Neal and Pallone and Ranking Members Brady and McMorris Rodgers,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to express our support for H.R. 8812, *The Improving Care and Access to Nurses (ICAN) Act*. This bill would increase patient access to care by removing outdated and unnecessary federal barriers on services provided by advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) under the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

APRNs include nurse practitioners, nurse anesthetists, nurse-midwives, and clinical nurse specialists. They provide high-quality health care throughout our nation and to a continuously growing number of Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries. According to data released by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), as of 2020, over 233,000 APRNs treated Medicare patients and approximately 40% of Medicare beneficiaries received care from an APRN. While APRNs provide health care to patients in all settings and geographic areas, patients in rural and underserved communities are more likely to rely on APRNs for their health care. [According to MedPAC](#), in 2018, APRNs and PAs accounted for up to 50% of all primary care clinicians treating Medicare beneficiaries in rural areas.

Recognizing the importance of APRNs to our health care workforce, and for patient access to care, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) issued *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health* report in 2010, which called for the removal of laws, regulations, and policies that prevent APRNs from providing the full scope of health care services they are educated and trained to provide. In 2021, this position was reaffirmed by the National Academy of Medicine (previously named the IOM) in their 2021 *The Future of Nursing 2020-2030: Charting a Path to Achieve Health Equity*.

Unfortunately, there are still Medicare and Medicaid policies that have not been modernized to reflect the growing and essential role of APRNs. Various federal statutes and regulations remain which prevent APRNs from practicing to the full extent of their education and clinical training. These policies reduce access to care, disrupt continuity of care, increase health care costs, and undermine quality improvement efforts.

The purpose of the *ICAN Act* is to increase access, improve quality of care, and lower costs in the Medicare and Medicaid programs by removing federal barriers to practice for APRNs, consistent with state law. We urge Congress to pass this important legislation, which will move our health care system forward in an effective and efficient manner for the benefit of patients and providers. If you have further questions please contact [MaryAnne Sapio](#), Vice President of Federal Government Affairs, American Association of Nurse Practitioners, [Sam Hewitt](#), Principal, Federal Affairs, American Nurses Association, [JP Mason](#), Associate Director, American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology, or [Amy Kohl](#), Director of Advocacy and Government Affairs, American College of Nurse-Midwives.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses  
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing  
American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners  
American Academy of Nursing  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology  
American Association of Nurse Practitioners  
American Association of Post-Acute Care Nursing  
American Cannabis Nurses Association  
American College of Nurse-Midwives  
American Nephrology Nurses Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Organization for Nursing Leadership  
American Psychiatric Nurses Association  
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses  
Association of Community Health Nurse Educators  
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care  
Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses  
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses  
Association of Veterans Affairs Nurse Anesthetists  
Council of Public Health Nursing Organizations  
Dermatology Nurses' Association  
Emergency Nurses Association  
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association  
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association  
Infusion Nurses Society  
International Society for Psychiatric Mental Health Nurses  
LeadingAge  
National Association for Home Care & Hospice  
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists  
National Association of Neonatal Nurses  
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Association of Rural Health Clinics  
National Indian Nurse Practitioners Association of America  
National League for Nursing  
National Partnership for Healthcare and Hospice Innovation  
National Rural Health Association  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Society of Pediatric Nurses

Alabama Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Alabama State Nurses Organization  
American Nurses Association - California  
American Nurses Association - Hawai'i  
American Nurses Association - Illinois  
American Nurses Association - Massachusetts, Inc.  
American Nurses Association - Michigan  
American Nurses Association - New York  
Arizona Association of Nurse Anesthesiology  
Arizona Nurses Association  
Arkansas Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Arkansas Nurses Association  
ARNPs United of Washington State  
Association of School Nurses of Connecticut

California Association for Nurse Practitioners  
California Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Colorado Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Colorado Nurses Association  
Connecticut Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Connecticut Nurses Association  
Consortium of Texas Certified Nurse-Midwives  
Delaware Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Delaware Coalition of Nurse Practitioners  
District of Columbia Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Florida Association of Nurse Anesthesiology  
Florida Nurses Association  
Georgia Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Georgia Nurses Association  
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association - Maryland Chapter  
Guam Nurses Association  
Idaho Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Illinois Association of Nurse Anesthesiology  
Illinois Society for Advanced Practice Nursing  
Indiana Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Indiana State Nurses Association  
Iowa Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Iowa Nurses Association  
Kansas Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Kentucky Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Kentucky Association of Nurse Practitioners and Nurse-Midwives  
Louisiana Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners  
Maine Association of Nurse Anesthesiology  
Maryland Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Maryland Nurses Association  
Massachusetts Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Massachusetts Coalition of Nurse Practitioners  
Michigan Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Minnesota Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Minnesota Organization of Registered Nurses  
Mississippi Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Missouri Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Missouri Nurses Association  
Montana Association of Nurse Anesthesiology  
Nebraska Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Nebraska Nurses Association  
Nevada Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
New Hampshire Association of Nurse Anesthesiology  
New Hampshire Nurses Association  
New Jersey Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
New Mexico Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
New Mexico Nurse Practitioner Council  
New York State Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
North Carolina Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
North Dakota Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
North Dakota Nurses Association  
Nurse Anesthesia of Maine  
Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland  
Nurse Practitioner Association of South Dakota

Nurse Practitioners of Idaho  
Nurse Practitioners of New York  
Ohio Association of Advanced Practice Nurses  
Ohio State Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Oklahoma Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Oklahoma Nurses Association  
Oregon Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Oregon Nurses Association  
Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Pennsylvania State Nurses Association  
Psychiatric Advanced Practice Nurses of Texas  
Rhode Island Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Rhode Island State Nurses Association  
School Nurses of Washington  
South Carolina Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
South Carolina Nurses Association  
South Dakota Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Tennessee Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Tennessee Nurse Practitioner Association  
Tennessee Nurses Association  
Texas Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Texas Nurse Practitioners  
Texas Nurses Association  
The Connecticut Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Society  
The Minnesota APRN Coalition  
The Nurse Practitioner Association New York State  
Utah Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Utah Nurse Practitioners  
Utah Nurses Association  
Vermont Association of Nurse Anesthesiologists  
Vermont Nurse Practitioners Association  
Virgin Islands State Nurses Association  
Virginia Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Virginia Council of Nurse Practitioners  
Washington Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Washington State Nurses Association  
West Virginia Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Wisconsin Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Wyoming Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Wyoming Nurses Association

Affinity Expert  
Alliance Primary Care  
Bridget Leonard Enterprises, LLC  
Case Western Reserve University  
Global Health Systems Consultants, LLC  
Inland Empire Nurses Association  
Midwest Multistate Division Service Corporation  
North Alabama Nurse Practitioners Association  
NP's of Lee County  
Polk County Advanced Practice Nurses Association  
Senior Care Clinic House Calls  
South Florida Council of Advanced Practice Nurses  
The Nurse Practitioner Group of Spokane  
Wellness Partners Hawaii, Inc.