



October 10, 2023

The Honorable Jeff Merkley  
531 Hart Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Cynthia Lummis  
127A Russell Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Merkley and Senator Lummis:

On behalf of the 61 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC), we would like to thank you for introducing the Improving Care and Access to Nurses (I CAN) Act (S.2418). The NCC is a cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the nursing profession representing Registered Nurses (RNs), Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs),<sup>1</sup> nurse leaders, boards of nursing, students, faculty, and researchers. Together, we support this comprehensive effort to ensure patients, including those under Medicare and Medicaid, have access to the high-quality care provided by our nation's APRNs.

From primary and maternal care to acute and chronic care, APRNs serve in all settings and in areas throughout the nation, including rural and underserved communities. More than 250,000 APRNs treated Medicare patients and approximately 40% of Medicare beneficiaries received care from an APRN.<sup>2</sup> The I CAN Act would remove outdated barriers in the Medicare and Medicaid programs that currently prevent APRNs from practicing to the full extent of their education and clinical training. Removing these barriers will increase patients' timely access to care from the provider of their choice and is consistent with recommendations from a broad range of organizations, including the National Academy of Medicine, the National Governors Association, the National Rural Health Association, the Federal Trade Commission, the Bipartisan Policy Center, the Brookings Institution, Americans for Prosperity, and the American Enterprise Institute.

As we continue to support the health care of our communities throughout the country, and create a more equitable system, passing the bipartisan I CAN Act is essential. We appreciate your leadership in this effort as we work to address today's challenges and prepare for a healthier tomorrow. If the Nursing Community Coalition can be of any assistance to you or your staff, please do not hesitate to contact the coalition's Executive Director, Rachel Stevenson, at [rstevenson@thenursingcommunity.org](mailto:rstevenson@thenursingcommunity.org).

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<sup>1</sup> APRNs include certified nurse-midwives (CNMs), certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs), clinical nurse specialists (CNSs) and nurse practitioners (NPs).

<sup>2</sup> Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Data.CMS.gov. *CMS Program Statistics-Medicare Providers*. (2022) Retrieved from: <https://data.cms.gov/summary-statistics-on-provider-enrollment/medicare-provider-type-reports/cms-program-statistics-medicare-providers>.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses  
Academy of Neonatal Nursing  
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 Critical-Care Nurses  
American Association of Heart Failure Nurses  
American Association of Neuroscience Nurses  
American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology  
American Association of Nurse Practitioners  
American Association of Post-Acute Care Nursing  
American College of Nurse-Midwives  
American Nephrology Nurses Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Nursing Informatics Association  
American Organization for Nursing Leadership  
American Psychiatric Nurses Association  
American Public Health Association, Public Health Nursing Section  
American Society for Pain Management Nursing  
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses  
Association for Radiologic and Imaging Nursing  
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators  
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care  
Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses  
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses  
Association of Public Health Nurses  
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses  
Association of Veterans Affairs Nurse Anesthetists  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service  
Dermatology Nurses' Association  
Emergency Nurses Association  
Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research  
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association  
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association  
Infusion Nurses Society  
International Association of Forensic Nurses  
International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses  
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists  
National Association of Hispanic Nurses  
National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners  
National Association of Neonatal Nurses  
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Association of School Nurses  
National Black Nurses Association  
National Council of State Boards of Nursing

National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers  
National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence  
National League for Nursing  
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium  
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties  
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Organization for Associate Degree Nursing  
Pediatric Endocrinology Nursing Society  
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association  
Society of Pediatric Nurses  
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates  
Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nurses Society