



July 31, 2013

The Honorable Allyson Y. Schwartz
U.S. House of Representatives
1227 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Schwartz:

On behalf of the 45 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community, we would like to thank you for introducing the *Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act of 2013* (H.R. 2504). Collectively, the Nursing Community represents nearly one million Registered Nurses, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), nurse executives, nursing students, nursing faculty, and nurse researchers. Our organizations are committed to improving the health and health care of our nation by collaborating to support the education and practice of APRNs, and therefore fully support this bill.

APRNs provide cost effective, high-quality care and their independent practice, in numerous healthcare settings, has been recognized by Medicare for nearly 20 years. Home health, in particular, is one area where APRNs are relied upon for their expert clinical skills. This is especially true in parts of the country where access to physicians is limited. Yet, Medicare law prohibits APRNs from certifying Medicare patients for the home health benefits and signing home health plans of care.

The *Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act of 2013* would specifically allow nurse practitioners, certified nurse-midwives, and clinical nurse specialists to certify home health services. This bill clearly recognizes the critical contributions that APRNs make to the delivery of health care in the United States and the need for these clinicians to practice to their full legal scope.

Again, we commend the efforts of this legislation to ensure that America's patients receive the home health services they need. If the Nursing Community can be of any assistance to you or your staff, please do not hesitate to contact its convener Suzanne Miyamoto at smiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu or 202-463-6930.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
American Assembly for Men in Nursing

American Academy of Nursing
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators
American College of Nurse-Midwives
Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
American Nurses Association
American Organization of Nurse Executives
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses
Association of Public Health Nurses
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
American Society for Pain Management Nursing
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc.
Developmental Disabilities Nurses Association
Dermatology Nurses' Association
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association signs
Infusion Nurses Society
International Society of Psychiatric Nursing
National American Arab Nurses Association
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Association of Neonatal Nurses
National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of School Nurses
National Black Nurses Association
National Gerontological Nursing Association
National Nursing Centers Consortium
National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
Oncology Nursing Society
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Public Health Nursing Section, American Public Health Association
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates
Visiting Nurses Associations of America
Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society



July 31, 2013

The Honorable Greg Walden
U.S. House of Representatives
2182 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Walden:

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Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society



July 31, 2013

The Honorable Susan Collins
U.S. Senate
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Collins:

On behalf of the 45 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community, we would like to thank you for introducing the *Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act of 2013* (S. 1332). Collectively, the Nursing Community represents nearly one million Registered Nurses, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), nurse executives, nursing students, nursing faculty, and nurse researchers. Our organizations are committed to improving the health and health care of our nation by collaborating to support the education and practice of APRNs, and therefore fully support this bill.

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Visiting Nurses Associations of America
Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society



July 31, 2013

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
U.S. Senate
419 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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