



June 7, 2022

The Honorable Joe Courtney
2449 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tim Walberg
2266 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Courtney and Walberg,

On behalf of the Steering Committee of the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC), which represents 63 national nursing organizations, we are pleased to support H.R. 6087, the *Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act*, which would retire outdated barriers in the Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA) that limit the ability of Nurse Practitioners (NPs) to provide care and treatment for injured or ill federal employees. 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),¹ nurse leaders, students, faculty, and researchers. We appreciate your continued efforts to improve the health care system for our nation's federal employees and strongly support passage of H.R. 6087.

Currently, federal employees can select an NP as their health care provider under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP), and the majority of states authorize NPs to provide the diagnosis and treatment for a workplace related injury. However, contrary to the workers' compensation process in most states, FECA requires that only a physician can make the diagnosis, certify the injury and extent of the disability, and oversee the patient's treatment and care. This barrier places an additional burden on the over two million federal employees, depriving them from receiving health care from their provider of choice, as well as hindering timely access to care and continuity of care.

H.R. 6087 would update the federal workers' compensation program and authorize NPs to certify disabilities and oversee treatment for injured or ill federal employees under FECA. This would improve access to health care for injured or ill federal employees, particularly in rural and underserved communities, and better align the federal workers' compensation program with the majority of states and FEHBP. By updating FECA to authorize federal employees to select their health care provider of choice when they are injured or become ill in the course of their federal employment, greater access, overall efficiency and better continuity of care can be achieved.

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

We appreciate this important legislation and strongly support passage of H.R. 6087, the *Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act*. Should you have any questions or if the Nursing Community Coalition can be of any additional assistance please contact the coalition's Executive Director, Rachel Stevenson, at rstevenson@thenursingcommunity.org or at 202-463-6930, ext. 271.

Sincerely,

American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American Nurses Association
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Council of State Boards of Nursing
National League for Nursing
Oncology Nursing Society

Cc:

All members of the U.S. House of Representatives