



## **AMSUN supports the John Lewis Equality in Medicare and Medicaid Treatment Act (S.406 and H.R. 7755)**

The Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses (AMSUN) is the only specialty nursing organization dedicated to the practice of medical-surgical nursing. A dynamic community of more than 10,000 medical-surgical nurses, we're committed to quality patient care through professional development, certification, scholarship, and advocacy. Medical-surgical nursing is practiced in multiple settings across the health care industry, including hospitals, outpatient settings, in homes, via telemedicine and other non-traditional settings.

AMSUN and its more than 10,000 members represent nurses who have advanced organizational, prioritization, assessment, and communication skills and are leaders in coordinating care among interprofessional health care teams. As the only national professional organization representing the voice of medical-surgical nursing, our strategic mission for patients and their access to high-quality, affordable health care includes addressing social determinants of health (SDOH) in policy. The John Lewis Equality in Medicare and Medicaid Treatment Act advances these goals.

### **John Lewis Equality in Medicare and Medicaid Treatment Act of 2022**

Established by the Affordable Care Act, the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) works to develop, test, and implement new value-based payment models. Under current law, however, CMMI is not required to consider social determinants of health - such as a patient's environment, education, and economic status - when implementing and testing new payment models.

The John Lewis Equality in Medicare and Medicaid Act directs CMMI to consult with experts on health disparities, such as the Office of Minority Health of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, and the Office on Women's Health, when developing new payment models that focus not only on lowering costs but also advancing health equity and improving access to care. Specifically, the bill directs CMMI to:

- Consider a model's impact on access to care for people of color, women, and people in rural areas, in addition to cost and quality;
- Include experts in health disparities and social determinants of health during the evaluation and review process for new payment models; and
- Create a Social Determinants of Health Model that focuses on health conditions of those dually eligible for Medicaid and Medicare, behavioral health, and maternal mortality.

**Recommendation:** AMSUN urges Members of Congress to cosponsor the John Lewis Equality in Medicare and Medicaid Treatment Act. This important legislation should be passed by Congress and enacted before the end of the 117<sup>th</sup> Congressional session.