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 This bill would increase patient access to care by removing outdated and unnecessary federal barriers on services provided by advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) under the Medicare and Medicaid programs.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
Maine Association of Nurse Anesthetists
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.