



ACADEMY OF MEDICAL-SURGICAL NURSES

compassion • commitment • connection

April 8, 2022

The Honorable Terri Sewell
United States House of Representatives
2201 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representatives Sewell,

On behalf of the Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses (AMSUN), I want to thank you for sponsoring the *John Lewis Equality in Medicare and Medicaid Treatment Act*. We greatly appreciate your leadership, and we join with you in the effort to eliminate health disparities due to race, ethnicity, gender, and geography.

AMSUN and its more than 11,000 members represent nurses who have advanced organizational, prioritization, assessment, and communication skills and are leaders in coordinating care among interprofessional health care teams. Medical-surgical nursing is practiced in several settings across the health care industry, including hospitals, outpatient settings, in homes, via telemedicine, and in other non-traditional settings. 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. AMSUN believes that health care delivery and payment systems should support evidence-based care transitions that reflect SDOH.

As you know, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) is currently under no obligation to account for social determinants of health when considering new payment models or the impact models will have on health equity. We understand the importance of CMMI's focus on quality and costs, but equal consideration should be given to the impact a proposed payment model may have on access to care for women, minorities, and beneficiaries residing in rural areas. AMSUN supports the *John Lewis Equality in Medicare and Medicaid Treatment Act* because it would require CMMI to factor health equity with same weight as quality and cost when developing, evaluating, or recommending Alternative Payment Models.

AMSUN supports the enactment of the *John Lewis Equality in Medicare and Medicaid Treatment Act*, and we look forward to working with you to see that this important legislation is enacted during the 117th Congress. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me or AMSUN's Washington representative, Jim Twaddell at [jtwaddell@venable.com](mailto:jwtwaddell@venable.com) or 202-344-4358.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "Summer Bryant".

Summer Bryant, DNP, RN, CENP, CMSRN

AMSN President