

June 6, 2023

The Honorable Jason Smith  
Chairman  
Committee on Ways and Means  
1102 Longworth House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Ways and Means  
1139 Longworth House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Chair  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2322 Rayburn House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs Smith and McMorris Rodgers and Ranking Members Neal and Pallone,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to express our support for H.R. 2713, *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 This bill would increase patient access to care by removing outdated and unnecessary federal barriers on services provided by advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) under the Medicare and Medicaid programs.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, certified registered nurse anesthetists, certified 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 2021, over 235,000 APRNs treated Medicare patients and over 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, [Matt Thackston](#), Director, American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology, or [Amy Kohl](#), Director of Advocacy and Government Affairs, American College of Nurse-Midwives.

Sincerely,

American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology  
American Association of Nurse Practitioners  
American Nurses Association  
American College of Nurse-Midwives  
The Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses  
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments  
American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners  
American Academy of Home Care Medicine  
American Academy of Nursing  
American Association of Birth Centers  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association of Post-Acute Care Nursing  
American Health Care Association  
American Organization for Nursing Leadership  
American Psychiatric Nurses Association  
American Public Health Association – Public Health Nursing Section  
Americans For Prosperity  
Association of Community Health Nurse Educators  
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care  
Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses  
Association of Public Health Nurses  
Convenient Care Association  
Council of Public Health Nursing Organizations  
Elevance Health  
Emergency Nurses Association  
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association  
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association  
International Nurses Society on Addictions-USA  
LeadingAge  
National Association for Home Care & Hospice  
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists  
National Association of Nigerian Nurse Practitioners in the USA  
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Association of Rural Health Clinics  
National Association of School Nurses  
National Grange  
National League for Nursing  
National Nurse Practitioner Entrepreneur Network  
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties  
National Partnership for Healthcare and Hospice Innovation  
National Rural Health Association  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Rural Nursing Organization  
Society of Psychiatric Advanced Practice Nurses

Alabama Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Alabama State Nurses Organization  
Nurse Practitioner Alliance of Alabama  
Alaska APRN Alliance  
Alaska Nurse Practitioner Association  
Arizona American College of Nurse-Midwives Affiliate

Arizona Association of Nurse Anesthesiology  
Arizona Nurse Practitioner Council  
Arizona Nurses Association  
Arkansas Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Arkansas Nurses Association  
American Nurses Association - California  
California Association for Nurse Practitioners  
California Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
California Nurse-Midwives Association  
Colorado Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives  
Colorado Nurses Association  
Connecticut Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives  
Connecticut APRN Society  
Connecticut Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Connecticut Nurses Association  
Delaware Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Delaware Coalition of Nurse Practitioners  
Delaware Nurses Association  
Delaware Organization of Nursing Leadership  
District of Columbia Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Nurse Practitioner Association of DC  
Florida Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives  
Florida Association of Nurse Anesthesiology  
Florida Association of Nurse Practitioners  
Florida Nurse Practitioner Network  
Florida Nurses Association  
Georgia Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives  
Georgia Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Georgia Nurses Association  
Guam Nurses Association  
American Nurses Association - Hawai'i  
Hawaii Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives  
Idaho Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Idaho Center for Nursing  
American Nurses Association - Illinois  
Illinois Association of Nurse Anesthesiology  
Illinois Society for Advanced Practice Nursing  
Coalition of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses of Indiana  
Indiana Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives  
Indiana Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Indiana State Nurses Association  
Iowa Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives  
Iowa Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Iowa Nurses Association  
LeadingAge Iowa  
Kansas Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
The Kentucky Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives  
Kentucky Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Kentucky Association of Nurse Practitioners and Nurse Midwives  
Louisiana Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives  
Louisiana Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners  
Maine Association of Nurse Anesthesiology  
Maine Nurse Practitioner Association  
Maryland Academy of Advanced Practice Clinicians

Maryland Affiliate of American College of Nurse Midwives  
Maryland Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Maryland Nurses Association  
Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland  
American Nurses Association - Massachusetts, Inc.  
Massachusetts Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives  
Massachusetts Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Massachusetts Coalition of Nurse Practitioners  
American Nurses Association - Michigan  
Michigan Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives  
Michigan Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Michigan Council of Nurse Practitioners  
Minnesota Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives  
The Minnesota APRN Coalition  
Minnesota Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Minnesota Organization of Registered Nurses  
Mississippi Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Mississippi Association of Nurse Practitioners  
Association of Missouri Advance Practice Registered Nurses for Full Practice Authority  
Association of Missouri Nurse Practitioners  
Missouri Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Missouri Nurses Association  
Montana Association of Nurse Anesthesiology  
Montana Nurses Association  
LeadingAge Nebraska  
Nebraska Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Nebraska Nurse Practitioners  
Nebraska Nurses Association  
Nevada Advanced Practice Nurses Association  
Nevada Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
New Hampshire Association of Nurse Anesthesiology  
New Hampshire Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives  
New Hampshire Nurse Practitioner Association  
New Hampshire Nurses Association  
Advanced Practice Nurses of New Jersey  
New Jersey Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives  
New Jersey Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
New Jersey Chapter of National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing  
New Jersey State Nurses Association affiliated with American Nurse Association  
New Mexico Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
New Mexico Nurse Practitioner Council  
American Nurses Association - New York  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners Greater New York Chapter  
New York Midwives  
New York State Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
The Nurse Practitioner Association of New York State  
Nurse Practitioners of New York  
North Carolina Affiliate of American College of Nurse-Midwives  
North Carolina Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
North Dakota Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
North Dakota Nurse Practitioner Association  
North Dakota Nurses Association  
Ohio Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives  
Ohio Association of Advanced Practice Nurses

Ohio State Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Association of Oklahoma Nurse Practitioners  
Oklahoma Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Oklahoma Nurses Association  
Nurse Practitioners of Oregon  
Oregon Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives  
Oregon Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Oregon Nurses Association  
Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Pennsylvania State Nurses Association  
Nurse Practitioner Alliance of Rhode Island  
Rhode Island Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Rhode Island State Nurses Association  
South Carolina Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
South Carolina Nurses Association  
Nurse Practitioner Association of South Dakota  
South Dakota Association of Healthcare Organizations  
South Dakota Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Tennessee Affiliate of American College of Nurse-Midwives  
Tennessee Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Tennessee Nurse Practitioner Association  
Tennessee Nurses Association  
Texas Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Texas Nurse Practitioners  
Texas Nurses Association  
Utah Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives  
Utah Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Utah Nurse Practitioners Association  
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  
ARNPs United of Washington State  
Washington Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Washington State Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives  
Washington State Nurses Association  
West Virginia Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives  
West Virginia Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
West Virginia Nurses Association  
Wisconsin Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Wisconsin Nurses Association  
Wyoming Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Wyoming Nurses Association

Capitol Nurse Practitioner Group  
The Central Florida Advanced Nursing Practice Council  
Columbia University School of Nursing  
Duke University School of Nursing  
Forum of Nurses in Advanced Practice  
Lanai Community Health Center  
Hancock County Health System  
Inland Empire Nurses Association  
Jamaica Association of Nurse Practitioners

Manatee Area Council for Advanced Nursing Practice  
Mount Sinai South Nassau Advanced Practice Nursing Innovative Committee  
North Alabama Nurse Practitioners Association  
Northern California Chapter Gerontologic Association of Nurse Practitioners  
Northern Colorado Nurse Practitioner Coalition  
NP's of Lee County  
Nurse Anesthesia of Maine  
Nurse Practitioner Association of Long Island  
The Nurse Practitioner Association of New York State, Region 4  
Nurse Practitioner Council of Miami Dade County  
Nurse Practitioner Council of the Treasure Coast, Inc  
The Nurse Practitioner Journal Club of Huntington  
Polk County Advanced Practice Nurses Association  
San Angelo Coalition of Advance Practice Nurses  
Sarasota County Association of Nurse Practitioners  
Senior Care Clinic House Calls  
Solidarity Services LLC  
South Florida Council of Advanced Practice Nurses, Inc  
South Georgia Association of Nurse Practitioners  
South Plains Nurse Practitioner Association  
Tree of Life Birth and GYN, LLC  
Wellness Partners Hawaii  
Western Regional Advanced Practice Nurses Network