

March 7, 2025

The Honorable Jason Smith  
Chairman  
Committee on Ways and Means  
1011 Longworth House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

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

The Honorable Brett Guthrie  
Chairman  
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  
2107 Rayburn House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Smith and Guthrie and Ranking Members Neal and Pallone:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to express our support for *The Improving Care and Access to Nurses (ICAN) Act* (H.R. 1317/S.575). This bill would increase patient access to care by removing outdated and unnecessary federal barriers on services provided by advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) under the Medicare and Medicaid programs.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](#), Director, Congressional and Political 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  
AARP  
Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses  
American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners  
American Academy of Nursing  
American Academy of Pediatric Surgical Nurses, Inc.  
American Association of Birth Centers  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses  
American Association of Neuroscience Nurses  
American Association of Post-Acute Care Nursing  
American Cannabis Nurses Association  
American Health Care Association  
American Nephrology Nurses Association  
American Organization for Nursing Leadership  
American Psychiatric Nurses Association  
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses  
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care  
Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses  
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN)  
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
Convenient Care Association  
Dermatology Nurses' Association  
Emergency Nurses Association  
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association (GAPNA)  
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association  
International Nurses Society on Addictions  
LeadingAge  
National Alliance for Care at Home  
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists (NACNS)  
National Association of Indian Nurses of America  
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 Association of School Nurses  
National Certification Corporation for Obstetric, Gynecologic, and Neonatal specialties (NCC)  
National League for Nursing  
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties  
National Partnership for Healthcare and Hospice Innovation  
National Rural Health Association  
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs (NOVA)  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Organization for Associate Degree Nursing (OADN)  
Philippine Nurses Association of America  
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association  
The Kroger Co.  
The National Nurse Practitioner Entrepreneur Network

Alaska Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives Inc  
The Alaska APRN Alliance

Alabama Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives  
Alabama Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Alabama State Nurses Association  
Nurse Practitioner Alliance of Alabama

Arizona Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives  
Arizona Association of Nurse Anesthesiology  
Arizona Nurse Practitioner Council  
Arizona Nurses Association

Arkansas Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives  
Arkansas Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Arkansas Nurse Practitioner Association  
Arkansas Nurses Association  
American Nurses Association – California  
California Nurse-Midwives Association  
California Association for Nurse Practitioners  
California Association of Nurse Anesthetists

Colorado Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives  
Colorado Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Colorado Nurses Association

Connecticut Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives  
Connecticut Association of Nurse Anesthesiology  
Connecticut Nurses Association

Delaware Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives  
Delaware Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Delaware Coalition of Nurse Practitioners  
Delaware Nurses Association

DC Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives  
District of Columbia Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Nurse Practitioner Association of the District of Columbia  
Florida Association of Nurse Anesthesiology  
Florida Council of Nurse-Midwives, Inc.  
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

Hawai'i Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives  
Hawaii Association of Nurse Anesthesiology  
American Nurses Association - Idaho

Idaho Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives, Inc.  
Idaho Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Nurse Leaders of Idaho  
Nurse Practitioners of Idaho  
American Nurses Association - Illinois  
American College of Nurse-Midwives Illinois Affiliate  
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, Inc.  
Indiana Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Indiana State Nurses Association

American College of Nurse-Midwives Iowa Affiliate, Inc.  
Iowa Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Iowa Nurses Association  
Kansas Advanced Practice Nurses Association (KAPN)  
Kansas Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives  
Kansas Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Kansas State Nurses Association  
Kentucky Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives  
Kentucky Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Kentucky Nurses Association  
Louisiana Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives  
Louisiana Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Louisiana Nurse Association of Practitioners  
Louisiana State Nurses Association  
American Nurses Association - Maine  
Maine Association of American College of Nurse-Midwives  
Maine Association of Nurse Anesthesiology  
Maine Nurse Practitioner Association  
Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives  
Maryland Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Maryland Nurses Association, Inc.  
Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland  
The Maryland Academy of Advanced Practice Clinicians  
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  
Minnesota Affiliate of American College of Nurse-Midwives  
Minnesota Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Minnesota Organization of Registered Nurses  
Mississippi Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives, Inc.  
Mississippi Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Mississippi Association of Nurse Practitioners  
Mississippi Nurses' Association  
Association of Missouri Nurse Practitioners  
Missouri Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Missouri Nurses Association  
Montana Association of Nurse Anesthesiology  
Montana Nurses Association  
Nebraska Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives  
Nebraska Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Nebraska Nurse Practitioner Organization  
Nebraska Nurses Association  
Nevada Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives, Inc.  
Nevada Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Nevada Nurses Association  
New Hampshire Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives  
New Hampshire Association of Nurse Anesthesiology  
New Hampshire Nurse Practitioner Association  
New Hampshire Nurses Association  
New Jersey Affiliate of the American College Nurse-Midwives  
New Jersey Association of Nurse Anesthetists

New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing  
New Jersey Palliative Care Advance Practice Nurse Consortium  
New Jersey State Nurses Association  
New Mexico Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives  
New Mexico Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
New Mexico Nurse Practitioner Council  
New Mexico Nurses Association  
American Nurses Association - New York  
New York State Association of Licensed Midwives  
New York State Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
The Nurse Practitioner Association New York State  
North Carolina Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives  
North Carolina Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
North Carolina Nurses Association  
North Dakota Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
North Dakota Nurse Practitioner Association  
North Dakota Nurses Association  
American Nurses Association - Ohio  
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 (AONP)  
Oklahoma Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives  
Oklahoma Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Oklahoma Nurses Association  
Nurse Practitioners of Oregon  
Oregon American College of Nurse-Midwives Affiliate  
Oregon Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Oregon Nurses Association  
Pennsylvania Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives  
Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Pennsylvania Coalition of Nurse Practitioners  
Pennsylvania Indian American Nurses Association  
Pennsylvania State Nurses Association  
Nurse Practitioner Alliance of Rhode Island  
Rhode Island Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives  
Rhode Island Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Rhode Island State Nurses Association  
South Carolina Affiliate of American College of Nurse-Midwives  
South Carolina Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
South Carolina Nurses Association  
Nurse Practitioner Association of South Dakota  
South Dakota Affiliate of American College of Nurse-Midwives  
South Dakota Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
South Dakota Nurses Association  
Tennessee Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Tennessee Chapter of the American College of Nurse-Midwives  
Tennessee Nurse Practitioner Association  
Tennessee Nurses Association  
The Consortium of Texas Certified Nurse-Midwives  
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  
American Nurses Association - Vermont  
Vermont Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives  
Vermont Association of Nurse Anesthesiologists  
Vermont Nurse Practitioners Association  
Virgin Islands State Nurses Association (VISNA)  
Virginia Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives  
Virginia Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Virginia Council of Nurse Practitioners  
Virginia Nurses Association  
ARNPs United of Washington State  
Washington Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Washington State Nurses Association  
West Virginia Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives  
West Virginia Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
West Virginia Nurses Association Inc  
Wisconsin Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Wisconsin Nurses Association  
Wyoming Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives  
Wyoming Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Wyoming Center for Nursing  
Wyoming Council for Advanced Practice Nurses  
Wyoming Nurses Association

Association Of Ghanaian Advance Nurses Abroad  
Bay Area Indian Nurses Association  
Columbia University School of Nursing  
GAPNA-Great Lakes Chapter  
Indian Nurses Association of North Texas  
Indian Nurses Association of South Florida  
Jamaica Association of Nurse Practitioners  
Metro Milwaukee Nurse Practitioners  
Middle Tennessee Advanced Practice Registered Nurses  
Northern Colorado Nurse Practitioner Coalition  
NP's of Lee County  
Nurse Practitioner Council of Miami-Dade  
Nurse Practitioners of Metropolitan New York  
Old Dominion University  
Pediatric Nurse Practitioner House Calls  
Polk County Advanced Practice Nurses Association  
Pukalani Family Practice, LLC  
San Antonio Indian Nurses Association  
San Antonio Nurses in Advanced Practice  
Sarasota County Nurse Practitioners  
Senior Care Clinic House Calls  
Sigma Theta Tau International Gamma Psi Chapter-At-Large