NURSES WEEK 2014

EMAIL MESSAGE TO CONGRESS from the APRN WORKGROUP

SUBJ: New Federal Trade Commission report - Eliminate barriers to full use of APRNs, promote healthcare quality, access, competition

Dear

On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), and knowing of your interest in improving healthcare quality, access and cost-efficiency, we want to provide you a few timely policy updates as we mark National Nurses Week May 6-12:

- **Who are APRNs?** America's APRNs are clinicians with advanced training who provide primary, acute, and specialty healthcare services. APRNs complete a master's, postmasters or doctoral degree program including clinical training beyond their registered nurse preparation. The four APRN roles outlined by the APRN Consensus Model include more than 300,000 Nurse Practitioners (NPs), Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs), Certified Nurse-Midwives (CNMs) and Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNSs), providing care to well over 100 million people each year in the U.S. and in your communities.
- **Competition helps healthcare.** A report issued in April by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), "Competition and the Regulation of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses," states, "Even well intentioned laws and regulations may impose unnecessary, unintended, or overbroad restrictions on competition, thereby depriving health care consumers of the benefits of vigorous competition. We thus urge policymakers to view competition and consumer safety as complementary objectives, and to integrate consideration of competition into their deliberations."
- **What does the Institute of Medicine recommend?** Because patient safety of APRN services is well established, the Institute of Medicine recommends eliminating legislative, regulatory, and other policy barriers to the use of APRNs so that they may delivery healthcare services to the full scope of their education and skill.
- **Policy barriers to APRNs harm healthcare and increase costs.** Just as America's growing and aging population needs the high-quality care that APRNs provide, numerous costly and harmful federal and state policy barriers continue impairing the use of our most trusted profession. Improper and costly barriers to APRN services include unnecessary and burdensome "supervision" requirements, inappropriate discrimination in credentialing and recognition, and unsupported payment differentials that encourage use of higher-cost providers without improving quality.
- **Promote access to quality, cost-efficient healthcare by recognizing APRNs to their full practice authority.** To expand patient access to the high-quality care that APRNs provide, both parties in

Congress should support legislation and policy recognizing APRNs to their full scope, and oppose initiatives that drive up cost or diminish patient access to APRNs without improving quality.

Clicking the names of the organizations below will put you in touch with us. Thank you.

American Association of Colleges of Nursing, AACN

American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, AANA

American Association of Nurse Practitioners, AANP

American College of Nurse-Midwives, ACNM

American Nurses Association, ANA

National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists, NACNS

National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health, NPWH

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, NAPNAP