June 6, 2023

The Honorable Jason Smith The Honorable Richard Neal

Chairman Ranking Member

Committee on Ways and Means Committee on Ways and Means

1102 Longworth House Office Building 1139 Longworth House Office Building

United States House of Representatives United States House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515 Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers The Honorable Frank Pallone

Chair Ranking Member

Committee on Energy and Commerce Committee on Energy and Commerce

2125 Rayburn House Office Building 2322 Rayburn House Office Building

United States House of Representatives United States House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515 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 This bill would increase patient access to care by removing outdated and unnecessary federal barriers on services provided by advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) under the Medicare and Medicaid programs.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](https://www.medpac.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Jun22_Ch2_MedPAC_Report_to_Congress_SEC.pdf), 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](mailto:msapio@aanp.org), Vice President of Federal Government Affairs, American Association of Nurse Practitioners, [Sam Hewitt](mailto:Samuel.hewitt@ana.org), Principal, Federal Affairs, American Nurses Association, [Matt Thackston](mailto:mthackston@aana.com), Director, American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology, or [Amy Kohl](mailto:akohl@acnm.org), 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 ACNM

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 for the American College of Nurse Midwives

Florida Association of Nurse Anesthesiology

Florida Association of Nurse Practitioners

Florida Nurse Practitioners (FNPN)

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 - Hawaiʻi

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

Nurse Anesthesia of Maine

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 ACNM

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 ACNM 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 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 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