

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 This bill would increase patient access to care by removing outdated and unnecessary federal barriers on services provided by advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) under the Medicare and Medicaid programs.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