



June 20, 2017

The Honorable Susan Collins
United States Senate
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ben Cardin
United States Senate
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Collins and Cardin,

On behalf of the 44 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community, we would like to thank you for introducing the Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act of 2017 (S. 445). The members of the Nursing Community coalition are the cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the nursing profession and fully support the goal of this legislation. With over four million licensed Registered Nurses (RNs), Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), and nursing students, the profession embodies the drive and passion to continually improve care for patients, families, and communities. The coalition is committed to improving the health of our nation and believes S. 445 helps to achieve this end.

APRNs provide cost effective, high-quality care and have been recognized Medicare providers for over twenty years. Home health is an area where APRNs are especially relied upon for their expert clinical skills. Yet, as it currently stands, Medicare law prohibits APRNs from certifying Medicare patients for home health benefits and from signing home health plans of care. The Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act of 2017 would allow nurse practitioners, certified nurse-midwives, and clinical nurse specialists to certify these services, ultimately reducing delays in care and recovery.

Again, we commend the introduction of S. 445, and appreciate your support for America's patients by reducing barriers that impede access to quality care. If the Nursing Community can be of any assistance to you or your staff, please do not hesitate to contact its Convener, Dr. Suzanne Miyamoto, at smiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu or 202-463-6930, ext. 247.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
American Academy of Nursing
American Association for Men in Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
American Association of Heart Failure Nurses
American Association of Neuroscience Nurses

American Association of Nurse Anesthetists
American Association of Nurse Assessment Coordination
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American Nephrology Nurses Association
American Nurses Association
American Nursing Informatics Association
American Organization of Nurse Executives
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Public Health Association. Public Health Nursing Section
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
Association for Radiologic and Imaging Nursing
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses
Association of Public Health Nurses
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service
Developmental Disabilities Nurses Association
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association
International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Neonatal Nurses
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Council of State Boards of Nursing
National Gerontological Nursing Association
National League for Nursing
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs
Oncology Nursing Society
Organization for Associate Degree Nursing
Society of Pediatric Nurses
Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society