

April 13, 2015

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: APRN Groups Call for Swift Passage of HR 2, “Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act”

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Reid:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), we urge swift passage of the “Medicare Access and CHIP (Children’s Health Insurance Program) Reauthorization Act” (HR 2).

The APRN community is comprised of organizations representing Nurse Practitioners (NPs) delivering primary, specialized and community healthcare; Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) who provide the full range of anesthesia services as well as chronic pain management; Certified Nurse-Midwives (CNMs) expert in primary care, maternal and women’s health; and Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNSs) offering acute, chronic, specialty and community healthcare services. Totalling more than 340,000 healthcare professionals, including two of the ten largest categories of Medicare Part B provider specialties according to Medicare claims data, our primary interests are patient wellness and improving patient access to safe and cost-effective health care services. In every setting and region, for every population particularly among the rural and medically underserved, America’s growing numbers of highly educated APRNs advance healthcare access and quality improvement in the United States and promote cost-effective healthcare delivery.

Our previous comments to Congress have stressed the importance of treating APRNs the same as physicians in the development, vetting, implementation and evaluation of quality measures and incentive reimbursement programs, and in the application of alternative payment models. This bipartisan, bicameral legislative proposal meets those objectives in the interests of patient safety and of beneficial market competition for patient-centered innovations in healthcare delivery.

Thank you for your consideration of our views on this subject. If you have any questions, please contact Frank Purcell of the AANA at 202-741-9080, fpurcell@aanadc.com.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Nursing (AAN)

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)

Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association (GAPNA)

National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists (NACNS)

National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF)

National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH)

cc: Sen. Orrin Hatch, Chairman Senate Finance Committee
Sen. Ron Wyden, Ranking Member Senate Finance Committee
Rep. Michael Burgess MD, Bill Sponsor

A similar letter was sent to the House Leadership on March 24, 2015.