

June 9, 2015

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mrs. Pelosi:

On behalf of the more than 340,000 Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) members of our organizations, we are writing today to express our opposition to extending Medicare sequestration cuts to offset the cost of the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program (HR 1314 as amended). We take no position on TAA itself. However, just weeks after Congress enacted the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MICRA) intended to stabilize and then reform future Medicare payment, Congress should not further tap the Medicare program to offset the costs of this or other legislation.

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. Totaling 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.

As healthcare providers serving millions of seniors, we urge Congress to remove from the TAA legislation its provision prolonging Medicare sequestration cuts beyond their termination date. We thank you for your leadership in this critical effort and look forward to continuing to work with you to protect patients and to keep their Medicare program strong and fiscally sound. If you have any questions, please contact Frank Purcell, American Association of Nurse Anesthetists Senior Director Federal Government Affairs, at fpurcell@aanadc.com, 202-741-9080.

Sincerely,

American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA)

American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP)

American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM)

American Nurses Association (ANA)

Gerontological Advance Practice Nurses Association (GAPNA)

National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists (NACNS)

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

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP)

National League for Nursing (NLN)