



March 15, 2017

The Honorable Greg Walden  
Chair  
Energy and Commerce Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady  
Chair  
Ways and Means Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Ranking Member  
Energy and Commerce Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal  
Ranking Member  
Ways and Means Committee  
U.S. House of Representative  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Walden and Brady, Ranking Members Pallone and Neal:

As an advocate for patient safety and quality care, the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists (NACNS) believes that public officials should work to provide **all** individuals with equitable access to comprehensive health care services, including preventive services, acute care and ongoing chronic conditions. In order to ensure a healthy nation, it is critical that equitable access exists to care for the full range of services including the medical conditions of mental disorders, alcohol and substance abuse, and addictions. Proposals for health care reform should remove barriers that impede individuals from attaining the necessary quality care to which all persons are entitled.

As currently written, the **American Health Care Act** threatens health care affordability, access, and delivery for individuals across the nation. The bill eliminates the Prevention and Public Health Fund, changes Medicaid to a per capita funding model, repeals income based subsidies on which millions of people rely and restricts millions of women's access to critical health services. These changes will not improve care for our populace.

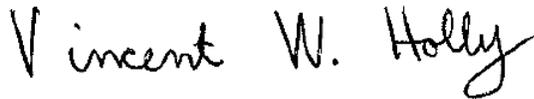
Any legislation that fundamentally alters health care delivery and deeply impacts patients and providers deserves thoughtful, deliberate and transparent consideration. NACNS urges your committees to allow public and stakeholder feedback in the face of reforms that would have a far-reaching impact on the lives of millions of people.

NACNS is the voice of more than 72,000 clinical nurse specialists (CNSs) who are advanced practice registered nurses with graduate preparation in nursing. CNSs have unique and advanced level competencies that meet the increased needs of improving quality and reducing costs in today's healthcare system. CNSs provide direct patient care, including assessment, diagnosis, and management of patient health care issues. They are leaders of change in health organizations, developers of scientific evidence-based programs to prevent avoidable complications, and coaches of those with chronic diseases to prevent hospital readmissions. CNSs are facilitators of interprofessional teams that improve the quality and

safety of care in acute and chronic care facilities including, but not limited to, preventing hospital acquired infections, reducing length of stays and preventing hospital readmissions.

NACNS is committed to work with Congress to develop a health care system that addresses the most pressing issues facing quality patient care today – issues that clinical nurse specialists tackle every day. If NACNS can be of assistance, please feel free to contact our Executive Director Melinda Mercer Ray at 703-929-8995 or via email at mray@nacns.org.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vincent W. Holly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Vincent W. Holly, MSN, RN, CCRN, CCNS  
President