



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](mailto: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

A similar letter endorsing the House version, H.R. 1825, was transmitted to the House sponsors on June 20, 2017.