



## STATEMENT OF

Peggy Barksdale, MSN, RN, OCNS-C, CNS.-BC  
President, National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists  
On the Inclusion of Clinical Nurse Specialists in  
The Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act (H.R. 2713).

CONTACT: [Gretchen Wright](#)  
[Luci Manning](#)  
202/371-1999

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## **National Nursing Association Praises Bill Extending Advanced Education Grants to Support Clinical Nurse Specialist Education**

“The National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists applauds Representatives Lois Capps (D-CA) and David Joyce (R-OH) for introducing the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act (H.R. 2713), which includes the clinical nurse specialist (CNS), along with other advanced practice nurses in the Public Health Service Act. Specifically, the bill extends advanced nursing education grants to cover CNS programs. This move recognizes the important contributions of CNSs to ensuring high quality health care delivery.

“There are some 70,000 CNSs in the United States who provide crucial care to health care consumers of all ages in all settings. We work in health care teams to ensure that patients receive care based on the latest scientific research. We improve patients’ safety and quality of care. We ensure that people in rural and underserved communities have access to the high quality health care they deserve, and we help keep the cost of health care down.

“While CNSs practice in many different settings, hospitalized patients are most likely to benefit from the expertise of the CNS. With the Affordable Care Act increasing access to health care and the aging of the Baby Boomer generation, more people than ever are entering our health care system, and more of them are entering with multiple chronic conditions that require a high level of complex and coordinated care. These realities make the CNS more important and more in-demand than ever.

“CNSs are advanced practice nurses who hold at least a master’s degree in nursing and we need to do more to support the education of these unique and important health care providers, to ensure we can meet the need for their services in the future. We urge the House of Representatives to pass this important legislation without delay.”

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*Founded in 1995, The National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists is the only association representing the clinical nurse specialist (CNS). CNSs are advanced practice registered nurses who work in a variety of specialties to ensure high-quality, evidence-based, patient-centered care. As leaders in health care settings, CNSs provide direct patient care and lead initiatives to improve care and clinical outcomes, and reduce costs. NACNS is dedicated to advancing CNS practice and education, removing certification and regulatory barriers, and assuring the public access to quality CNS services.*