



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALISTS

June 25, 2013

The Honorable Allyson Y. Schwartz  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Schwartz:

The National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists (NACNS) would like to express its strong support for the Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act, allowing clinical nurse specialists, nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives, and physician assistants to order home health services for Medicare beneficiaries.

As you are aware, Medicare currently only recognizes nurse practitioners and physician assistants as authorized providers who can order nursing home care for Medicare beneficiaries. Even in states that have explicitly expanded their laws to allow other medical providers to order home care, Medicare still does not certify payment for these services until a physician signs the order. Seniors and disabled citizens who see non-physician medical professionals as their primary care providers often need an extra visit with an unknown physician in order to get the care they need. This legislation will relieve that burden for our most vulnerable citizens.

Clinical nurse specialists have unique and advanced level competencies that meet the increased needs of improving quality and reducing costs in the health care system. As the voice of more than 70,000 clinical nurse specialists, NACNS applauds your leadership and offers its resources in bringing this legislation to reality. If NACNS can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact our Senior Public Policy Specialist at 202-421-6383 or via email at [tnally@karassociates.com](mailto:tnally@karassociates.com).

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol Manchester".

Carol Manchester, MSN, ACNS, BC-ADM, CDE  
President