

March 7, 2025

The Honorable Mike Crapo, Chairman
Senate Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Crapo and Ranking Member Wyden,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to express our support for *The Improving Care and Access to Nurses (ICAN) Act* (S. 575/H.R. 1317). This bill would increase patient access to care by removing outdated and unnecessary federal barriers on services provided by advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) under the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

APRNs include nurse practitioners, certified registered nurse anesthetists, certified nurse-midwives, and clinical nurse specialists. They provide high-quality health care throughout our nation and to a continuously growing number of Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries. According to data released by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), as of 2021, over 235,000 APRNs treated Medicare patients and over 40% of Medicare beneficiaries received care from an APRN. While APRNs provide health care to patients in all settings and geographic areas, patients in rural and underserved communities are more likely to rely on APRNs for their health care. [According to MedPAC](#), in 2018, APRNs and PAs accounted for up to 50% of all primary care clinicians treating Medicare beneficiaries in rural areas.

Recognizing the importance of APRNs to our health care workforce, and for patient access to care, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) issued *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health* report in 2010, which called for the removal of laws, regulations, and policies that prevent APRNs from providing the full scope of health care services they are educated and trained to provide. In 2021, this position was reaffirmed by the National Academy of Medicine (previously named the IOM) in their 2021 *The Future of Nursing 2020-2030: Charting a Path to Achieve Health Equity*.

Unfortunately, there are still Medicare and Medicaid policies that have not been modernized to reflect the growing and essential role of APRNs. Various federal statutes and regulations remain which prevent APRNs from practicing to the full extent of their education and clinical training. These policies reduce access to care, disrupt continuity of care, increase health care costs, and undermine quality improvement efforts.

The purpose of the *ICAN Act* is to increase access, improve quality of care, and lower costs in the Medicare and Medicaid programs by removing federal barriers to practice for APRNs, consistent with state law. We urge Congress to pass this important legislation, which will move our health care system forward in an effective and efficient manner for the benefit of patients and providers. If you have further questions please contact [MaryAnne Sapio](#), Vice President of Federal Government Affairs, American Association of Nurse Practitioners, [Sam Hewitt](#), Director, Congressional and Political Affairs, American Nurses Association, [Matt Thackston](#), Director, American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology, or [Amy Kohl](#), Director of Advocacy and Government Affairs, American College of Nurse-Midwives.

Sincerely,

American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American Nurses Association
American College of Nurse-Midwives
AARP
Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners
American Academy of Nursing
American Academy of Pediatric Surgical Nurses, Inc.
American Association of Birth Centers
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
American Association of Neuroscience Nurses
American Association of Post-Acute Care Nursing
American Cannabis Nurses Association
American Health Care Association
American Nephrology Nurses Association
American Organization for Nursing Leadership
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN)
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Convenient Care Association
Dermatology Nurses' Association
Emergency Nurses Association
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association (GAPNA)
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association
International Nurses Society on Addictions
LeadingAge
National Alliance for Care at Home
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists (NACNS)
National Association of Indian Nurses of America
National Association of Neonatal Nurses
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Rural Health Clinics
National Association of School Nurses
National Certification Corporation for Obstetric, Gynecologic, and Neonatal specialties (NCC)
National League for Nursing
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
National Partnership for Healthcare and Hospice Innovation
National Rural Health Association
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs (NOVA)
Oncology Nursing Society
Organization for Associate Degree Nursing (OADN)
Philippine Nurses Association of America
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
The Kroger Co.
The National Nurse Practitioner Entrepreneur Network

Alaska Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives Inc
The Alaska APRN Alliance

Alabama Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives
Alabama Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Alabama State Nurses Association
Nurse Practitioner Alliance of Alabama

Arizona Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives
Arizona Association of Nurse Anesthesiology
Arizona Nurse Practitioner Council
Arizona Nurses Association

Arkansas Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives
Arkansas Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Arkansas Nurse Practitioner Association
Arkansas Nurses Association
American Nurses Association – California
California Nurse-Midwives Association
California Association for Nurse Practitioners
California Association of Nurse Anesthetists

Colorado Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives
Colorado Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Colorado Nurses Association

Connecticut Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives
Connecticut Association of Nurse Anesthesiology
Connecticut Nurses Association

Delaware Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives
Delaware Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Delaware Coalition of Nurse Practitioners
Delaware Nurses Association

DC Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives
District of Columbia Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Nurse Practitioner Association of the District of Columbia
Florida Association of Nurse Anesthesiology
Florida Council of Nurse-Midwives, Inc.
Florida Nurse Practitioner Network
Florida Nurses Association

Georgia Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives
Georgia Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Georgia Nurses Association
Guam Nurses Association
American Nurses Association - Hawai'i

Hawai'i Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives
Hawaii Association of Nurse Anesthesiology
American Nurses Association - Idaho

Idaho Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives, Inc.
Idaho Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Nurse Leaders of Idaho
Nurse Practitioners of Idaho
American Nurses Association - Illinois
American College of Nurse-Midwives Illinois Affiliate
Illinois Association of Nurse Anesthesiology
Illinois Society for Advanced Practice Nursing
Coalition of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses of Indiana

Indiana Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives, Inc.
Indiana Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Indiana State Nurses Association

American College of Nurse-Midwives Iowa Affiliate, Inc.
Iowa Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Iowa Nurses Association
Kansas Advanced Practice Nurses Association (KAPN)
Kansas Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives
Kansas Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Kansas State Nurses Association
Kentucky Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives
Kentucky Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Kentucky Nurses Association
Louisiana Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives
Louisiana Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Louisiana Nurse Association of Practitioners
Louisiana State Nurses Association
American Nurses Association - Maine
Maine Association of American College of Nurse-Midwives
Maine Association of Nurse Anesthesiology
Maine Nurse Practitioner Association
Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives
Maryland Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Maryland Nurses Association, Inc.
Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland
The Maryland Academy of Advanced Practice Clinicians
American Nurses Association - Massachusetts, Inc.
Massachusetts Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives
Massachusetts Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Massachusetts Coalition of Nurse Practitioners
American Nurses Association - Michigan
Michigan Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives
Michigan Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Minnesota Affiliate of American College of Nurse-Midwives
Minnesota Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Minnesota Organization of Registered Nurses
Mississippi Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives, Inc.
Mississippi Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Mississippi Association of Nurse Practitioners
Mississippi Nurses' Association
Association of Missouri Nurse Practitioners
Missouri Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Missouri Nurses Association
Montana Association of Nurse Anesthesiology
Montana Nurses Association
Nebraska Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives
Nebraska Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Nebraska Nurse Practitioner Organization
Nebraska Nurses Association
Nevada Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives, Inc.
Nevada Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Nevada Nurses Association
New Hampshire Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives
New Hampshire Association of Nurse Anesthesiology
New Hampshire Nurse Practitioner Association
New Hampshire Nurses Association
New Jersey Affiliate of the American College Nurse-Midwives
New Jersey Association of Nurse Anesthetists

New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing
New Jersey Palliative Care Advance Practice Nurse Consortium
New Jersey State Nurses Association
New Mexico Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives
New Mexico Association of Nurse Anesthetists
New Mexico Nurse Practitioner Council
New Mexico Nurses Association
American Nurses Association - New York
New York State Association of Licensed Midwives
New York State Association of Nurse Anesthetists
The Nurse Practitioner Association New York State
North Carolina Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives
North Carolina Association of Nurse Anesthetists
North Carolina Nurses Association
North Dakota Association of Nurse Anesthetists
North Dakota Nurse Practitioner Association
North Dakota Nurses Association
American Nurses Association - Ohio
Ohio Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives
Ohio Association of Advanced Practice Nurses
Ohio State Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Association of Oklahoma Nurse Practitioners (AONP)
Oklahoma Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives
Oklahoma Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Oklahoma Nurses Association
Nurse Practitioners of Oregon
Oregon American College of Nurse-Midwives Affiliate
Oregon Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Oregon Nurses Association
Pennsylvania Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives
Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Pennsylvania Coalition of Nurse Practitioners
Pennsylvania Indian American Nurses Association
Pennsylvania State Nurses Association
Nurse Practitioner Alliance of Rhode Island
Rhode Island Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives
Rhode Island Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Rhode Island State Nurses Association
South Carolina Affiliate of American College of Nurse-Midwives
South Carolina Association of Nurse Anesthetists
South Carolina Nurses Association
Nurse Practitioner Association of South Dakota
South Dakota Affiliate of American College of Nurse-Midwives
South Dakota Association of Nurse Anesthetists
South Dakota Nurses Association
Tennessee Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Tennessee Chapter of the American College of Nurse-Midwives
Tennessee Nurse Practitioner Association
Tennessee Nurses Association
The Consortium of Texas Certified Nurse-Midwives
Texas Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Texas Nurse Practitioners
Texas Nurses Association
Utah Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives
Utah Association of Nurse Anesthetists

Utah Nurse Practitioners Association
Utah Nurses Association
American Nurses Association - Vermont
Vermont Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives
Vermont Association of Nurse Anesthesiologists
Vermont Nurse Practitioners Association
Virgin Islands State Nurses Association (VISNA)
Virginia Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives
Virginia Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Virginia Council of Nurse Practitioners
Virginia Nurses Association
ARNPs United of Washington State
Washington Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Washington State Nurses Association
West Virginia Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives
West Virginia Association of Nurse Anesthetists
West Virginia Nurses Association Inc
Wisconsin Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Wisconsin Nurses Association
Wyoming Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives
Wyoming Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Wyoming Center for Nursing
Wyoming Council for Advanced Practice Nurses
Wyoming Nurses Association

Association Of Ghanaian Advance Nurses Abroad
Bay Area Indian Nurses Association
Columbia University School of Nursing
GAPNA-Great Lakes Chapter
Indian Nurses Association of North Texas
Indian Nurses Association of South Florida
Jamaica Association of Nurse Practitioners
Metro Milwaukee Nurse Practitioners
Middle Tennessee Advanced Practice Registered Nurses
Northern Colorado Nurse Practitioner Coalition
NP's of Lee County
Nurse Practitioner Council of Miami-Dade
Nurse Practitioners of Metropolitan New York
Old Dominion University
Pediatric Nurse Practitioner House Calls
Polk County Advanced Practice Nurses Association
Pukalani Family Practice, LLC
San Antonio Indian Nurses Association
San Antonio Nurses in Advanced Practice
Sarasota County Nurse Practitioners
Senior Care Clinic House Calls
Sigma Theta Tau International Gamma Psi Chapter-At-Large