



June XX, 2025

The Honorable Tim Walberg  
United States House of Representatives  
2266 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joe Courtney  
United States House of Representatives  
2449 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington DC, 20515

Dear Representatives Walberg and Courtney:

On behalf of the XX undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC), we would like to thank you for introducing the *Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act* (H.R. 3170). This bill would retire outdated barriers in the Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA) that limit the ability of Nurse Practitioners (NPs) to diagnose and oversee the care and treatment of federal employees who are injured or become ill in the course of their employment. The NCC is a cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the nursing profession representing Registered Nurses (RNs), Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs),<sup>1</sup> nurse leaders, boards of nursing, students, faculty, and researchers. We appreciate your continued efforts to improve the health care system for our nation's federal employees and strongly support passage of this bipartisan effort.

Currently, federal employees can select an NP as their health care provider under the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program, and the majority of states authorize NPs to provide the diagnosis and treatment for a workplace related injury. However, contrary to the workers' compensation process in most states, FECA requires that only a physician can make the diagnosis, certify the injury and extent of the disability, and oversee the patient's treatment and care. This barrier places an additional burden on federal employees, depriving them from receiving health care from their provider of choice, as well as hindering timely access to care and continuity of care.

The *Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act* would update the federal workers' compensation program and authorize NPs to certify disabilities and oversee treatment for injured or ill federal employees under FECA. This would improve access to health care for injured or ill federal employees, particularly in rural and underserved communities, and align the federal workers' compensation program with state law. By updating FECA to authorize federal employees to select their health care provider of choice when they are injured or become ill in the course of their federal employment, greater access, overall efficiency, and better continuity of care can be achieved.

We appreciate the introduction of this important legislation and strongly support passage of the *Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act* (H.R. 3170) this Congress.

---

<sup>1</sup> APRNs include certified nurse-midwives (CNMs), certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs), clinical nurse specialists (CNSs) and nurse practitioners (NPs).

Should you have any questions or if the Nursing Community Coalition can be of any additional assistance please contact the coalition's Executive Director, Rachel Minahan, at [rstevenson@thenursingcommunity.org](mailto:rstevenson@thenursingcommunity.org).

Sincerely,

Academy of Neonatal Nursing  
American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners  
American Academy of Nursing  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses  
American Association of Occupational Health Nurses  
American Nephrology Nurses Association  
American Public Health Association, Public Health Nursing Section  
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses  
Association of Public Health Nurses  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service  
International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses  
National Association of Hispanic Nurses  
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health  
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association

cc:

Ranking Member Bobby Scott, House Education and Workforce Committee  
Chairman Ryan Mackenzie, House Education and Workforce Subcommittee on Workforce Protections  
Ranking Member Ilhan Omar, House Education and Workforce Subcommittee on Workforce Protections