



March 2, 2017

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Health, Education,  
Labor & Pensions  
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Health, Education,  
Labor & Pensions  
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray,

As we enter the 115th Congressional session, the Nurse Practitioner Roundtable consisting of the nurse practitioner organizations listed below would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all you have done in our behalf and in behalf of our patients. As you are aware, nurse practitioners are advanced practice nurses who are prepared at the graduate level to provide primary care, acute care and chronic care to people of all ages and walks of life. Nurse practitioners practice in nearly every health care setting including clinics, hospitals, the VA and Indian Health Care facilities, emergency rooms, urgent care settings, private physician and nurse practitioner practices, long term care facilities, schools, colleges, retail clinics, public health departments, nurse managed and homeless clinics. Knowing how important the services of nurse practitioners are to the health care of these individuals and families, it is clear that nurse practitioners need to be full partners in the provision of health care throughout the United States.

In this light, we urge you to protect funding for these populations and ensure the inclusion and utilization of nurse practitioners in all health care legislation and regulation that is initiated in the 115th Congress. We are particularly concerned about the evolution of Medicare, Medicaid and private health insurance coverage for our vulnerable populations such as the elderly, the chronically ill, women and children. It is important that all patients have access to health care with affordable options regardless of their previous conditions, that they are able to see the provider of their choice (including nurse practitioners) and are able to access unobstructed primary, acute, chronic, and specialty care with these providers. This includes patients of all ages, gender and occupations as well as the inclusion of preventive, wellness and chronic disease management services.

Given the growing shortage of highly qualified health care professionals in our nation, we recommend the continuance of workforce funding to prepare nurse practitioners, as well as the removal of barriers to nurse practitioner practice in federal statute and regulation to improve quality and efficiency in health care delivery across the nation. Nurse practitioners are well

known for the high quality, cost effective care they provide. We look forward to working with you to improve and maintain the standards of care for our patients by providing safe high quality care, efficiently and cost effectively. Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact [governmentaffairs@aanp.org](mailto:governmentaffairs@aanp.org).

Sincerely,

American Association of Nurse Practitioners  
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health  
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties

The Nurse Practitioner Roundtable is a coalition of nurse practitioner organizations formed to collaborate, unify and address issues of importance to nurse practitioners. The Nurse Practitioner Roundtable is currently composed of the organizations listed above.