



February XX, 2014

The Honorable Jim McDermott
U.S. House of Representatives
1035 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515

Dear Representative McDermott,

On behalf of the XX undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community coalition, we write to **express** our support for H.R. 3833, which would **eliminate the new provision in the Affordable Care Act [P.L. 111-148] that requires physicians to document the face to face encounters of nurse practitioners, clinical specialists and physician assistants when ordering certain durable medical equipment for their Medicare patients. As you are aware, these clinicians have been ordering durable medical equipment for years without the need for physician documentation.**

Unfortunately, current language in the **Act** requires a physician **to** document the **required** face-to-face encounters of **these clinicians**. By **removing this requirement so that** NPs, CNSs, and PAs **can continue** to document **their face to face encounters** without a physician's signature, this legislation would eliminate an unnecessary, **costly** and burdensome barrier facing Medicare patients **who need** necessary **durable medical** equipment **to insure** their **safe, lifesaving and timely care**.

Collectively, our organizations represent nearly one million registered nurses, advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs, which include NPs, CNSs, certified registered nurse anesthetists, and certified nurse-midwives), nurse faculty, researchers, and students, and are committed to promoting efforts that advance the health and health care delivery of our nation. We recognize the vital role that APRNs play in serving our nation's Medicare population, and support the removal of barriers that prevent them from practicing to the full extent of their education and training.

The Nursing Community would like to thank you for your continued efforts and support your work to amend statute that hinders NPs, CNSs, and PAs from ensuring that Medicare beneficiaries have access to DME in a timely manner. If our organizations can be of any assistance, please contact Convener of the Nursing Community, Dr. Suzanne Miyamoto, at Smiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu or 202-463-6930, ext. 247.

Sincerely,