



October 8, 2013

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
House Energy & Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Ranking Member
House Energy & Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Waxman:

On behalf of the 40 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community, we respectfully request that you oppose the Protect Patient Access to Quality Health Professionals Act of 2013 (H.R. 2817). Collectively, the Nursing Community represents nearly one million registered nurses, advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), nurse executives, nursing students, nursing faculty, and nurse researchers. Our organizations are committed to improving the health and health care of our nation by collaborating to support sound policy decisions. This legislation, which would repeal Section 2706 of the Public Health Service Act, "Non-Discrimination in Health Care," 42 USC §300gg-5, would impact the nation's efforts to promote high quality, cost-effective care.

We firmly believe that Section 2706 – effective January 1, 2014 – protects patient safety, promotes competition in the healthcare marketplace, and provides patients the opportunity to choose which provider is best for them and their families. This provision is designed to ensure that health plans do not discriminate against qualified licensed providers, including APRNs, and clearly respects state scope of practice laws. H.R. 2817 would allow this discrimination, based solely on licensure, to continue to occur. If enacted, this bill would drive up healthcare costs by limiting competition.

Our organizations, representing a diverse range of registered nurses and APRNs, urge you to oppose this legislation and work to ensure it is not passed. If our organizations can be of any assistance or answer any questions, please contact Frank Purcell at 202-741-9080, fpurcell@aanadc.com, or Suzanne Miyamoto 202-463-6930, ext. 247, smiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
American Academy of Nursing
American Assembly for Men in Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Nursing

American Association of Nurse Anesthetists
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Nurses Association
American Organization of Nurse Executives
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Society for Pain Management Nursing
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
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
Dermatology Nurses' Association
Emergency Nurses Association
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association
Infusion Nurses Society
International Nurses Society on Addictions
International Society of Psychiatric Nurses
National American Arab Nurses Association
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of School Nurses
National Gerontological Nursing Association
National Nursing Centers Consortium
National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs
Oncology Nursing Society
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Public Health Nursing Section, American Public Health Association
The Quad Council of Public Health Nursing Organizations