



March 14, 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 41 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 (NPs), clinical nurse specialists (CNS), and physician assistants (PAs) when ordering certain durable medical equipment (DME) 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 Affordable Care 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](mailto:Smiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu) or 202-463-6930, ext. 247.

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 Critical-Care Nurses  
American Association of Heart Failure Nurses  
American Association of Neuroscience Nurses  
American Nephrology Nurses' Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Organization of Nurse Executives  
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association  
American Psychiatric Nurses Association  
American Society for Pain Management Nursing  
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  
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association  
Infusion Nurses Society  
International Association of Nurses in Genetics  
International Society of Psychiatric Nurses  
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists  
National Association of Hispanic Nurses  
National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners  
National Association of Neonatal Nurses  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Association of School Nurses  
National Black Nurses Association  
National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers  
National Nursing Centers Consortium  
National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing  
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Preventative Cardiovascular Nurses Association  
Public Health Nursing Section, American Public Health Association  
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates  
The Quad Council of Public Health Nursing Organizations  
Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society