



March 18, 2015

The Honorable Senator Susan Collins  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Collins and Senator Schumer,

On behalf of the 41 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community, we would like to thank you for introducing the Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act of 2015 (S. 578). Collectively, the Nursing Community represents over 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 the education and practice of APRNs, and therefore fully support this bill.

APRNs provide cost effective, high-quality care and have been recognized by Medicare for 20 years. Home health, in particular, is one area where APRNs are heavily relied upon for their expert clinical skills. Yet, Medicare law currently prohibits APRNs from certifying Medicare patients for the home health benefits and from signing home health plans of care.

The Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act of 2015 would specifically allow nurse practitioners, certified nurse-midwives, and clinical nurse specialists to certify home health services. Our organizations applaud this legislation as it not only supports these APRNs to the full scope of their education and practice, but more important, ensures that patients receive home health services in a timely manner, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

Again, we commend the introduction of S. 578, and appreciate your support for America's patients and APRNs. If the Nursing Community can be of any assistance to you or your staff, please do not hesitate to contact its convener, Suzanne Miyamoto, at [smiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu](mailto:smiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu) or 202-463-6930.

Sincerely,

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 Association of Nurse Practitioners  
American College of Nurse-Midwives  
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  
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses  
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators  
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
Dermatology Nurses' Association  
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association  
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association  
Infusion Nurses Society  
International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses  
National American Arab Nurses Association  
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 Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Council of State Boards of Nursing  
National Gerontological Nurses Association  
National Nursing Centers Consortium  
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties  
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Organization for Associate Degree Nursing  
Public Health Nursing Section, American Public Health Association  
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates  
Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society