



October 8, 2013

The Honorable Suzanne Bonamici
U.S. House of Representatives
439 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Bonamici:

On behalf of the 39 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community, we would like to thank you for introducing the Protecting Access to Primary Care Act (H.R. 2986). 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 advancements in nursing education and practice. We commend you for putting forth this legislation to support APRNs in their role as primary care providers and to ensure Medicaid beneficiaries are able to receive the primary care services they need.

H.R. 2986 would extend the provisions of Section 1202 of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (PL 111-152) increasing payment for Medicaid primary care services in 2013 and 2014 to specifically include nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse-midwives, and physician assistants as providers eligible to receive payment for these services at Medicare rates. The Nursing Community applauds your inclusion of these practitioners to recognize the contributions of APRNs in the primary care arena. Moreover, we support your legislation's goal of ensuring that Medicaid beneficiaries have access to high-quality services from a full cadre of primary care clinicians.

Again, we thank you for introducing H.R. 2986 and for serving as a champion for nursing and APRN practice. The Nursing Community supports the broader effort of improving the delivery of primary care services across America, and acknowledges that your work to promote recognition of the healthcare professionals who provide these services, including APRNs, is critical. If our organizations can be of any assistance, please contact Dave Masson at davemason@nursepractitioneradvocacy.net or 202-251-8107 or Suzanne Miyamoto at 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 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
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