



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](mailto:fpurcell@aanadc.com), or Suzanne Miyamoto 202-463-6930, ext. 247, [smiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu](mailto: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