



ANNA Supports the Improving Care and Access to Nurses (I CAN) Act (H.R. 2713 and S. 2418)

The American Nephrology Nurses Association (ANNA) is a nonprofit organization with a membership of more than 6,000 registered nurses and other health care professionals at all levels of practice. ANNA members work in settings such as chronic kidney disease management, peritoneal dialysis, hemodialysis, continuous renal replacement therapy, transplantation, industry, and government and regulatory agencies.

Advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) provide high-quality, cost-effective, and patient-centered care in a variety of health care settings, including primary, acute, chronic and specialty care. APRNs are especially integral to rural and underserved communities, often serving as the single lifeline to primary and preventative care. According to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), more than 250,000 APRNs treated Medicare patients and approximately 40% of Medicare beneficiaries received care from an APRN. However, despite their growing importance and the pressing shortage of clinicians nationwide, outdated federal laws and regulations in Medicare and Medicaid limit APRNs from practicing to their full potential and restrict patient access to care. Federal legislation is both urgent and necessary to permanently remove these barriers and ensure APRNs can provide optimal care to millions in need.

The Improving Care and Access to Nurses (I CAN) Act

The bipartisan *Improving Care and Access to Nurses (I CAN) Act* was reintroduced by Representatives Dave Joyce (R-OH), Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR), Lauren Underwood (D-IL), Jen Kiggans (R-VA), Adrian Smith (R-NE), Kelly Armstrong (R-ND), Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), Glenn Grothman (R-WI), Chris Pappas (D-NH), and Ann Kuster (D-NH) on April 19, 2023. The bill would eliminate practice barriers that adversely affect APRNs in states with full practice authority and strengthen access to care for Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries by:

- Empowering APRNs to practice to their full scope of their education and clinical training, thereby expanding access to vital health care services and promoting continuity of care.
- Increasing the availability of APRNs nationwide to help address significant provider shortages and reduce health inequities in medically underserved areas.
- Permitting APRNs to provide more comprehensive health care services under Medicare and Medicaid including, but not limited to, ordering and supervising cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation, certifying therapeutic shoes for patients with diabetes, referring patients for medical nutrition therapy, certifying terminal illness for hospice eligibility, and performing mandatory assessments in skilled nursing facilities.

Recommendation: ANNA joins with a broad group of national stakeholders in urging Members of Congress to cosponsor the *Improving Care and Access to Nurses (I CAN) Act* (H.R.2713 and S. 2418).