



ANNA Supports the *Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act* (H.R. 2150 and S. 296)

The American Nephrology Nurses Association (ANNA) is a nonprofit organization with a membership of over 8,500 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/regulatory agencies.

Background on Home-Based Health Care

As the population ages, more and more individuals will require home-based health care. Medicare beneficiaries with disabilities often benefit from access to care that can be provided in-home by providers practicing to the full extent of their education. Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) are playing increasingly important roles in the delivery of primary health care services. The *Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act* (H.R. 2150 and S. 296) confirms Medicare's recognition of the role nurses play in home health care and ensures that beneficiaries have timely access to home health care services. Medicare currently recognizes four categories of APRNs for the care they provide in home health settings; however, only a physician may certify that a patient is eligible for Medicare home health services. This is an unnecessary barrier to care that also increases costs for Medicare.

Overview of the *Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act*

The *Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act* (H.R. 2150 and S. 296), introduced by Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL-9) and Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) and), would authorize nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse-midwives, and physician assistants to certify home health care services for their Medicare patients. This legislation would ensure that beneficiaries have timely access to the home health care they need and reduce costs for Medicare.

There is a broad group of national stakeholders that support this legislation including patient groups, advocacy organizations, and health professional provider associations and societies. The bill supporters are all committed to ensuring Medicare beneficiaries have access to the quality care they need and deserve.

Recommendation: ANNA urges Members of Congress to cosponsor the *Health Care Planning Improvement Act* (H.R. 2150 and S. 296).