



June 21, 2023

The Honorable Jason Smith
Chairman
U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means
1139 Longworth HOB
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Chair
U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means
1139 Longworth HOB
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member
U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Neal, Chair McMorris Rodgers, and Ranking Member Pallone:

On behalf of the more than 168,000 PAs (physician associates/assistants) throughout the United States, the American Academy of PAs (AAPA) writes with thoughtful concern about H.R. 2713, *The Improving Care and Access to Nurses (ICAN) Act*. As the national professional PA society, AAPA advocates and educates on behalf of the PA profession and improving healthcare for all patients. AAPA also strives to improve the quality, accessibility, and cost-effectiveness of patient-centered healthcare.

AAPA appreciates the effort by the authors of H.R. 2713 to increase healthcare access, improve quality of care, and lower costs by removing the remaining barriers imposed by the federal government in the Medicare and Medicaid programs that prevent advance practice registered nurses (APRNs) from practicing to the full scope of their education and clinical training. AAPA strongly supports the four provisions in Title I, for which PAs are included. Those four provisions appear to be parts of the omnibus ICAN legislation that came from previously introduced bills that included both PAs and nurse practitioners (NPs). The inclusion of PAs in the five other provisions of Title I is critical to expanding access to care. AAPA strongly supports legislation that authorizes Medicare and Medicaid providers to practice to the full extent of their education and training, consistent with state licensure.

PAs are licensed clinicians, dedicated to a team-based approach to healthcare, who practice medicine, with broad medical education that prepares them to serve in all specialties and settings, including primary care. PAs diagnose illness, develop and manage treatment plans, manage their own patient panels, and often serve as a patient's primary healthcare provider.

AAPA applauds both committees for their dedication to and support for strengthening federal healthcare programs in a way that protects and expands access to high-quality medical care. On behalf

of patients and PAs, we strongly urge you to ensure that PAs are included in critical healthcare legislation, including all provisions in Title I of ICAN, should it advance during the 118th Congress.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Tate Heuer, AAPA Vice President, Federal Advocacy, at 571-319-4338 or at theuer@aapa.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa M. Gables". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and "G".

Lisa M. Gables, CPA
Chief Executive Officer