



March 24, 2017

The Honorable Tom Reed  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2437 Rayburn House Office Building  
20515

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1111 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Reed and Blumenauer:

On behalf of the more than 115,000 PAs (physician assistants) represented by the American Academy of PAs (AAPA), I am writing to thank you for your leadership in introducing H.R. 1617, the Promoting Access to Diabetic Shoes Act of 2017.

AAPA appreciates that H.R. 1617 will eliminate an unreasonable restriction on the ability of PAs to certify that a patient needs therapeutic shoes, which are especially designed to reduce the risk of skin breakdown in patients living with diabetes. The existing policy imposes a significant burden on PAs and their patients. With close to 30 million people living with diabetes in this country, preventative measures like therapeutic shoes can help with the onset of more serious complications.

Medicare beneficiaries throughout the nation will benefit from this important legislation that will enable PAs to more effectively and efficiently treat patients with diabetes. As you know, PAs routinely manage the care of diabetic patients, including those who present with multiple comorbid conditions. PAs also currently have the ability to certify other often more expensive medical equipment and devices, such as prosthetics, walkers, and power mobility devices.

AAPA is pleased to support the Promoting Access to Diabetic Shoes Act of 2017, and we look forward to working with you to enact it. For further information, please do not hesitate to have your staff contact Tate Heuer, AAPA Vice President, Federal Advocacy, at 571-319-4338 or at [theuer@aapa.org](mailto:theuer@aapa.org).

Thank you for sponsoring this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Jennifer L. Dorn  
Chief Executive Officer