



March 14, 2014

The Honorable Jim McDermott
U.S. House of Representatives
1035 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515

Dear Representative McDermott,

On behalf of the 41 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community coalition, we write to express our support for H.R. 3833, which would eliminate the new provision in the Affordable Care Act [P.L. 111-148] that requires physicians to document the face to face encounters of nurse practitioners (NPs), clinical nurse specialists (CNS), and physician assistants (PAs) when ordering certain durable medical equipment (DME) for their Medicare patients. As you are aware, these clinicians have been ordering durable medical equipment for years without the need for physician documentation.

Unfortunately, current language in the Affordable Care Act requires a physician to document the required face-to-face encounters of these clinicians. By removing this requirement so that NPs, CNSs, and PAs can continue to document their face to face encounters without a physician's signature, this legislation would eliminate an unnecessary, costly, and burdensome barrier facing Medicare patients who need necessary durable medical equipment to insure their safe, lifesaving, and timely care.

Collectively, our organizations represent nearly one million registered nurses, advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs, which include NPs, CNSs, certified registered nurse anesthetists, and certified nurse-midwives), nurse faculty, researchers, and students, and are committed to promoting efforts that advance the health and health care delivery of our nation. We recognize the vital role that APRNs play in serving our nation's Medicare population, and support the removal of barriers that prevent them from practicing to the full extent of their education and training.

The Nursing Community would like to thank you for your continued efforts and support your work to amend statute that hinders NPs, CNSs, and PAs from ensuring that Medicare beneficiaries have access to DME in a timely manner. If our organizations can be of any assistance, please contact Convener of the Nursing Community, Dr. Suzanne Miyamoto, at Smiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu or 202-463-6930, ext. 247.

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 Critical-Care Nurses
American Association of Heart Failure Nurses
American Association of Neuroscience Nurses
American Nephrology Nurses' Association
American Nurses Association
American Organization of Nurse Executives
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Society for Pain Management Nursing
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
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
Infusion Nurses Society
International Association of Nurses in Genetics
International Society of Psychiatric Nurses
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Association of Hispanic Nurses
National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Neonatal Nurses
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of School Nurses
National Black Nurses Association
National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers
National Nursing Centers Consortium
National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs
Oncology Nursing Society
Preventative Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Public Health Nursing Section, American Public Health Association
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates
The Quad Council of Public Health Nursing Organizations
Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society