November 20, 2014

The Honorable Mike Thompson
U.S. House of Representatives
231 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Thompson:

On behalf of the 30 undersigned organizations, we write in support of the Medicare Telehealth Parity Act of 2014 (H.R 5380). We commend this legislation as it introduces a phased-in expansion of telehealth coverage under Medicare. Furthermore, H.R. 5380 promotes maximum utilization of health providers as it allows eligible practitioners to provide care across state lines.

As you know, Telehealth offers patients the opportunity to be treated by a provider through the support of electronic information and telecommunications technologies. It is an innovative solution that can help ensure access to care for patients across the country, and this is critical given the growing national demand for health providers and services. However, current statute limits the type of services and eligible settings for patients to receive care through Telehealth. H.R. 5380 would expand the number of services as well and broaden the inclusion of sites where Telehealth services would be covered under Medicare.

Again, we applaud this legislation and its implications for patients and participating clinicians. If our organizations can be of any assistance, or if you have any questions, please contact the National Council of State Boards of Nursing’s Director of Government Affairs, Elliot Vice, at eveice@ncsbn.org.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
American Academy of Nursing
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
American Association of Heart Failure Nurses
American Association of Neuroscience Nurses
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Organization of Nurse Executives
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
Association for Radiologic and Imaging Nursing
Association of Community Health Educators
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Association of Public Health Nurses
Dermatology Nurses' Association
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association
Infusion Nurses Society
International Association of Forensic Nurses
National Association of Hispanic Nurses
National Association of Neonatal Nurses
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of School Nurses
National Council of State Boards of Nursing
National Nursing Centers Consortium
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs
Oncology Nursing Society
Organization for Associate Degree Nursing