September 23, 2014

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murray:

On behalf of the 44 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community coalition, we write in support of the Ensuring Access to Primary Care for Women & Children Act (S. 2694). Collectively, our organizations represent nearly one million registered nurses, advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), nurse faculty, researchers, and students, and we are committed to promoting efforts that advance the health of our nation through nursing care. Your legislation addresses a critical step toward ensuring access to primary care services for Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) beneficiaries, and we applaud the inclusion of APRNs as key health providers in this national effort.

Currently, the Medicaid payment rate that has been temporarily aligned with the Medicare payment rate is set to expire on December 31, 2014. Recognizing the high demand for primary care services, S. 2694 would ensure that this temporary rate for Medicaid and CHIP is sustained through December 31, 2016. In addition, the bill includes nurse practitioners (NPs), certified nurse-midwives (CNMs), and physician assistants as eligible providers to receive this payment rate so that these clinicians are able to maximize their contributions to the primary care arena.

Again, thank you for introducing the Ensuring Access to Primary Care for Women & Children Act, which will help ensure that Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries are not denied the high-quality services that NPs and CNMs offer. If our organizations can be of 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 Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
American Association of Heart Failure Nurses
American Association of Neuroscience Nurses
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Nurses Association
American Organization of Nurse Executives
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Society for Pain Management Nursing
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses
Association of Public Health Nurses
Association of Radiologic & Imaging Nursing
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service
Dermatology Nurses' Association
Developmental Disabilities Nurses Association
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association
Infusion Nurses Society
International Society of Nurses in Genetics
International Society of Psychiatric Nursing
National American Arab Nurses Association
National Association of Hispanic Nurses
National Association of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners
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 Black Nurses Association
National Gerontological Nursing Association
National Nursing Centers Consortium
National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
Oncology Nursing Society
Pediatric Endocrinology Nursing Society
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates