

August 13, 2015

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

Dear Representative Thompson:

On behalf of the 42 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community coalition, we write in support of the Medicare Telehealth Parity Act of 2015 (H.R. 2948). Collectively, the Nursing Community represents over one million registered nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, nurse faculty, researchers, and students, and is committed to promoting efforts that advance the health of our nation through nursing care. We commend this legislation as it introduces a phased-in expansion of telehealth coverage under Medicare. Furthermore, this legislation 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. This bill would expand the number of services as well as 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 Convener of the Nursing Community, Dr. Suzanne Miyamoto, at <u>Smiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu</u> or 202-463-6930, ext. 247.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing American Academy of 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 Practitioners American Association of Occupational Health Nurses American College of Nurse-Midwives 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 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 Rehabilitation Nurses Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service **Dermatology Nurses' Association** Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association Infusion Nurses Society International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses National American Arab Nurses Association 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 Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners National Council of State Boards of Nursing National League for Nursing National Nursing Centers Consortium Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs **Oncology Nursing Society** Organization for Associate Degree Nursing Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates