



THE HOME HEALTH CARE PLANNING IMPROVEMENT ACT

S. 445

The American Nurses Association (ANA) urges you to cosponsor S. 445, the Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act (S. 445). This bipartisan legislation, introduced by Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Ben Cardin (D-MD), would allow nurse practitioners (NPs), clinical nurse specialists (CNSs), and certified nurse midwives (CNMs) to certify their patient's eligibility for home health care services.

Current Medicare policy prevents these advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) from providing appropriate care for their patients. Medicare has recognized the autonomous practice of these APRNs for nearly two decades, as they provide the majority of skilled care for home health patients. While these health care professionals are authorized to perform face-to-face assessments of a patient's needs, a physician must certify the assessment.

APRNs with patients who need home health care services are forced to delay care to their patients while they locate a physician who will verify their assessments and recommended services for their patients' care. This burdensome process leads to delays in health care delivery. Not only are patients inconvenienced with these delays, their health is jeopardized and Medicare is incurring increased cost while beneficiaries are unnecessarily left in expensive institutional settings or discharged prematurely without appropriate services.

APRNs are already providing high-quality, affordable health care in areas where access to physicians is limited; particularly in underserved urban and remote rural areas. ANA strongly supports S. 445 and urges you to stand with patients by cosponsoring this legislation.

FACTS AT A

GLANCE

ANA urges you to cosponsor S.445

This legislation:

- Allows NPs, CNSs, and CNMs to order home health services for Medicare beneficiaries and fulfill the face-to-face requirement under Medicare.
- Ensures seniors and disabled Americans have timely access to home health services under Medicare.