



THE HOME HEALTH CARE PLANNING IMPROVEMENT ACT

S. 445/H.R. 1825

The American Nurses Association (ANA) urges you to co-sponsor the Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act, (S. 445/H.R. 1825). This bipartisan legislation, introduced by Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Reps. Chris Collins (R-NY) and Ron Kind (D-WI), would allow nurse practitioners (NPs), clinical nurse specialists (CNSs), and certified nurse midwives (CNMs) to order home health care services.

Current Medicare policy prevents these advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) from ensuring appropriate, timely 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 provide high-quality, affordable health care in areas where access to physicians is limited; particularly in medically-underserved urban and remote rural areas. Currently, 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. Not only is the patient inconvenienced by these delays, their health is jeopardized and Medicare incurs increased costs while beneficiaries are unnecessarily left in more expensive institutional settings or discharged prematurely without appropriate services.

The Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act would protect patients and improve the efficiency of healthcare delivery by allowing APRNs to sign the final care plan to order home health care services for their most vulnerable patients. ANA strongly supports S. 445/H.R. 1825 and urges you to stand with patients by cosponsoring this legislation.

FACTS AT A

GLANCE

ANA urges you to cosponsor S.445/H.R. 1825

This legislation:

- Allows NPs, CNSs, and CNMs to order home health services for Medicare beneficiaries and fulfill the face-to-face requirement under Medicare.
- Promotes timely access to home health care services under Medicare.