



## The Improving Veterans Access to Care Act

### H.R. 1247

The American Nurses Association (ANA) urges you to cosponsor H.R. 1247, the bipartisan Improving Veterans Access to Care Act, introduced by Reps. Sam Graves (R-MO) and Jan Schakowsky (D-IL). This legislation addresses the delays in health care delivery plaguing the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) by granting full practice authority to advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) — a group that includes nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists and certified nurse midwives — working in the VHA.

H.R. 1247 adopts the recommendations of the Institute of Medicine report ***The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health***, which supports the policy of APRNs practicing to their full scope. This legislation would also make the VHA policy consistent with the U.S. Armed Forces and Indian Health Service. Currently, over 5,000 APRNs provide a full range of services for our veterans in the VHA. APRNs currently provide high-quality care within the VHA. H.R. 1247 would remove existing barriers that limit APRNs from practicing to the full extent of their education and training.

Additionally, H.R. 1247 extends and expands the Intermediate Care Technician (ICT) pilot program, which allows the immediate transition of combat medics, medical technicians and corpsman straight from the U.S. Armed Forces into the VHA system. These ICTs provide care for fellow veterans while advancing their education and training, and allow VHA nurses, many of whom are also veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces, to see more patients.

The American Nurses Association (ANA) is the only full-service professional organization representing the interests of the nation's 3.4 million registered nurses (RNs). Our members serve in a variety of capacities, providing general and specialty care as RNs and APRNs. These nurses practice in a wide range of settings such as private practices, hospitals and home health.

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#### FACTS AT A

## GLANCE

Veterans who have served our country deserve quality, safe and effective health care, not to have their health put at risk due to backlogs and waitlists for receiving treatment. ANA urges you to cosponsor H.R. 1247 by contacting Jonathan Mason of Rep. Graves' staff at [Jonathan.Mason@mail.house.gov](mailto:Jonathan.Mason@mail.house.gov) or at 202-225-7041.

**American Nurses Association Department of Government Affairs**

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