

June 6, 2022

The Honorable Joe Courtney
2449 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tim Walberg
2266 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Courtney and Walberg,

The undersigned organizations representing Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), are pleased to support H.R. 6087, the *Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for injured Federal Workers Act*. This legislation would retire outdated barriers in the Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA) that limit the ability of NPs to provide care and treatment for injured or ill federal employees. The APRN Workgroup thanks you for your continued efforts to improve the health care system for our nation's federal employees.

The APRN Workgroup is comprised of organizations representing Advanced Nursing Education, Certified Nurse-Midwives (CNMs), Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNSs), Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs), and Nurse Practitioners (NPs). America's growing numbers of highly educated APRNs advance healthcare access, quality improvement and cost-effective healthcare delivery across all settings, regions and populations, particularly among the rural and medically underserved.

Currently, federal employees can select an NP as their health care provider under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP), and the majority of states authorize NPs to provide the diagnosis and treatment for a workplace related injury. However, contrary to the workers' compensation process in most states, FECA requires that only a physician can make the diagnosis, certify the injury and extent of the disability, and oversee the patient's treatment and care. This barrier places an additional burden on the over two million federal employees, depriving them from receiving health care from their provider of choice, as well as hindering timely access to care and continuity of care.

As you know, H.R. 6087 would update the federal workers' compensation program and authorize NPs to certify disabilities and oversee treatment for injured or ill federal employees under FECA. This would improve access to health care for injured or ill federal employees, particularly in rural and underserved communities, and better align the federal workers' compensation program with the majority of states and FEHBP. By updating FECA to authorize federal employees to select their health care provider of choice when they are injured or become ill in the course of their federal employment, greater access, overall efficiency and better continuity of care can be achieved. We thank you for this impactful legislation and strongly support full passage of H.R. 6087.

Thank you again for your tireless efforts on behalf of federal employees. Should you have comments or questions, please direct them to MaryAnne Sapio, V.P. Federal Government Affairs, msapio@aanp.org, 703-740-2529.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Nursing, AAN
American Association of Colleges of Nursing, AACN
American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology, AANA
American Association of Nurse Practitioners, AANP
American Nurses Association, ANA
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association, GAPNA
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, NAPNAP
National League for Nursing, NLN

National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties, NONPF