

June 11, 2024

The Hon. Virginia Foxx
Chairwoman
Committee on Education and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Ranking Member
Committee on Education and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
2101 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Foxx and Ranking Member Scott,

I am writing on behalf of the American Nurses Association (ANA) to inform you of our strong support of the *Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act* (H.R. 618). This bipartisan legislation would retire outdated barriers in the Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA) that limit the ability of nurse practitioners (NPs) to provide care and treatment for injured or ill federal employees.

ANA is the premier organization representing the interests of the nation's over five million registered nurses, through its constituent and state nurses associations, organizational affiliates, and individual members. RNs serve in multiple direct care, care coordination, and administrative leadership roles, across the full spectrum of health care settings. RNs provide and coordinate patient care, educate patients and the public about various health conditions, and provide advice and emotional support to patients and their family members. ANA members also include those practicing in the four advanced registered nurse roles: NPs, clinical nurse specialists (CNS), certified nurse-midwives (CNM), and certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNA). ANA is dedicated to partnering with health care consumers to improve practices, policies, delivery models, outcomes, and access across the health care continuum.

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 yet another burden on our country's approximately two million federal employees.

In addition, H.R. 618 would put FECA on par with the Social Security Disability Insurance program, Medicare, Medicaid, and the vast majority of other federal health programs where NPs are authorized to oversee health care delivery consistent with state law. This bill also reflects bipartisan recommendations to remove barriers on NPs from the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine; the Brookings Institute; the American Enterprise Institute; the World Health Organization; the Bipartisan Policy Center; the National Governors Association; Americans for Prosperity; and the Federal Trade Commission, among others.

In closing, I would like to thank you for your leadership and for your willingness to consider our perspective on this important issue to ensure that federal workers have access to qualified, high-quality providers. ANA stands ready to work with the Education and Workforce Committee to advance this legislation. If you have any questions, please contact Tim Nanof, Vice President of Policy and Government Affairs, at (301) 628-5081 or Tim.Nanof@ana.org.

Sincerely,



Debbie Hatmaker, PhD, RN, FAAN
Chief Nursing Officer/EVP

cc: The Hon. Tim Walberg
The Hon. Joe Courtney
Jennifer Mensik Kennedy, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN, ANA President
Angela Beddoe, ANA Interim Chief Executive Officer