



June 11, 2014

Office of Senator Barbara Mikulski
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 228-1122

Dear Senator Mikulski,

On behalf of the Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland (NPAM) I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for co-sponsoring S1332 The Home Health Planning and Improvement Act of 2013.

As you know, currently only physicians may certify home health services. The aim of S1332 is to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act so that nurse practitioners and other advanced practice registered nurses and physicians assistants may do so, as well.

Nurse practitioners and other advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) provide primary and acute care services across the country, diagnosing and treating acute and chronic illness, prescribing medications, and promoting wellness with preventative services. The high quality of health care provided by APRNs is well documented. We believe that with the ability to certify home health care, barriers to health care will be eliminated, especially among the poor and those living in rural areas.

The Institute of Medicine Report, published in 2011, *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health* recommended that APRNs be given the authority to certify patients for home health services.

We thank you for your confidence in the high quality, accessible, and affordable health care that is being delivered by nurse practitioners and other advanced practice registered nurses by co-sponsoring S1332.

Feel free to contact the Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland (NPAM) in the future with any questions related to nurse practitioners or their scope of practice. We look forward to hearing from you!

Best Regards,

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