



October 4, 2022

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Congresswoman  
House of Representatives

The Honorable Dave Joyce  
Congressman  
House of Representatives

Dear Representatives Roybal-Allard and Joyce:

The National Rural Health Association (NRHA) applauds your introduction of H.R. 8812, the *Improving Care and Access to Nurses (ICAN) Act*. This legislation will make important changes to allow advanced practice registered nurses (APRN) to practice at the top of their license and to broaden the scope of services they can independently provide under Medicare.

NRHA is a non-profit membership organization with more than 21,000 members nationwide that provides leadership on rural health issues. Our membership includes every component of rural America's health care, including rural community hospitals, critical access hospitals, doctors, nurses, and patients. We provide leadership on rural health issues through advocacy, communications, education, and research.

NRHA supports this legislation because APRNs play a critical role in providing primary care in rural communities, particularly in areas with workforce shortages. Rural patients are also more likely to be enrolled in Medicare, with nearly 40% of all Medicare enrollees receiving treatment from APRNs. Removing unnecessary restrictions on APRNs and expanding Medicare coverage will increase access to care in rural areas where patients disproportionately rely on their services.

As rural America continues to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and grapple with on-going workforce shortages, it is important that people living in rural areas have access to care. APRNs have the education and the clinical training to provide crucial services in rural areas but are inhibited by outdated laws. Because of the significant presence of APRNs and the quality of care they provide in rural areas, NRHA urges swift passage of this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical issue. If you have questions, please contact Kristen Batstone ([kbatstone@ruralhealth.us](mailto:kbatstone@ruralhealth.us)).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Morgan", is written over a light grey circular stamp.

Alan Morgan  
Chief Executive Officer  
National Rural Health Association