May 19, 2015

The Honorable Sam Graves
1415 Longworth House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Graves,

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), I would like to thank you for introducing the Improving Veterans Access to Quality Care Act of 2015 (H.R. 1247) with Representative Jan Schakowsky. As the national voice for baccalaureate and graduate nursing education, AACN represents over 760 schools that educate more than 457,000 nursing students and employ over 18,000 full-time nursing faculty. Collectively, our institutions produce approximately half of our nation’s Registered Nurses and all of our Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), nurse faculty, nurse researchers, and other professionals with advanced nursing degrees.

We applaud H.R. 1247 as it recognizes APRNs serving within the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) as full practice providers, and includes solutions to the challenges that Veterans face in accessing high-quality health care. Currently, APRNs serving in the VHA (including nurse practitioners, certified registered nurse anesthetists, and clinical nurse specialists) collaborate with the health provider team to ensure Veterans receive the care they deserve in a timely and efficient manner. H.R. 1247 would maximize the VHA’s ability to support this endeavor. Additionally, granting APRNs full practice authority would make VHA healthcare delivery consistent with the models already implemented in our U.S. Armed Forces, the Department of Defense, and Indian Health Service.

Again, AACN commends your dedication to improving healthcare services for our Veterans, and for recognizing the contributions of APRNs within the VHA provider team. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff as the VHA navigates improvements in care delivery for our nation’s service men and women and their families. If AACN can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our Senior Director of Government Affairs and Health Policy, Dr. Suzanne Miyamoto, at Smiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu or 202-463-6930, ext. 247.

Sincerely,

Eileen T. Breslin, PhD, RN, FAAN
President
May 19, 2015

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky
2367 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Schakowsky,

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), I would like to thank you for introducing the Improving Veterans Access to Quality Care Act of 2015 (H.R. 1247) with Representative Sam Graves. As the national voice for baccalaureate and graduate nursing education, AACN represents over 760 schools that educate more than 457,000 nursing students and employ over 18,000 full-time nursing faculty. Collectively, our institutions produce approximately half of our nation’s Registered Nurses and all of our Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), nurse faculty, nurse researchers, and other professionals with advanced nursing degrees.

We applaud H.R. 1247 as it recognizes APRNs serving within the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) as full practice providers, and includes solutions to the challenges that Veterans face in accessing high-quality health care. Currently, APRNs serving in the VHA (including nurse practitioners, certified registered nurse anesthetists, and clinical nurse specialists) collaborate with the health provider team to ensure Veterans receive the care they deserve in a timely and efficient manner. H.R. 1247 would maximize the VHA’s ability to support this endeavor. Additionally, granting APRNs full practice authority would make VHA healthcare delivery consistent with the models already implemented in our U.S. Armed Forces, the Department of Defense, and Indian Health Service.

Again, AACN commends your dedication to improving healthcare services for our Veterans, and for recognizing the contributions of APRNs within the VHA provider team. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff as the VHA navigates improvements in care delivery for our nation’s service men and women and their families. If AACN can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our Senior Director of Government Affairs and Health Policy, Dr. Suzanne Miyamoto, at Smiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu or 202-463-6930, ext. 247.

Sincerely,

Eileen T. Breslin, PhD, RN, FAAN
President