



July 29, 2009

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senate  
133 Senate Hart Building  
Washington, DC 20510



Dear Senator Stabenow:

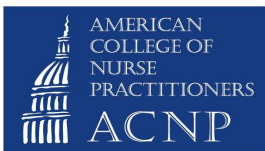


American Association  
of Colleges of Nursing

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we would like to express our support for your legislation that will amend Title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide payment to hospitals for the costs of expanded advanced practice nurse training programs. At a time when our country faces a shortage of healthcare professionals, funding for the clinical education of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), including nurse practitioners, certified nurse-midwives, certified registered nurse anesthetists, and clinical nurse specialists is vitally important to meet the demand for expanded health care, which is expected under a newly reformed delivery system.



APRNs are ideally suited to help implement delivery system reforms such as an increased focus on primary, transitional, and preventive care, enhancing access for rural and medically underserved populations, improving care coordination, chronic care management, and reducing costly medical errors. Yet in 2008, U.S. nursing schools turned away 6,904 qualified applicants from graduate nursing programs due to insufficient numbers of faculty, clinical sites, classroom space, clinical preceptors, and budget constraints. This Medicare funding would expand the current focus to nursing education at the graduate level. It would also expand clinical education provided through Medicare funding to include home and community-based settings as well as hospitals, using affiliations between accredited schools of nursing and community-based health care settings. The outcome would be a much more robust APRN workforce to meet growing demand especially among the Medicare population and those in underserved areas. In fact, according to a Lewin report commissioned by AARP to investigate this type of proposal, your bill would increase the number of APRNs by 25%.



We applaud your efforts and those of your staff for introducing Graduate Nursing Education legislation, which will benefit future APRNs so they can provide high quality, cost effective care to the most vulnerable populations in all areas across the country. Thank you for your recognition of the role APRNs will play in a reformed healthcare system.

Sincerely,

AARP  
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
American College of Nurse Practitioners  
American College of Nurse-Midwives  
American Nurses Association  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties

