

May 26, 2016

Message to House and Senate Staffers from the APRN Workgroup

Dear [FIRSTNAME]:

To expand Veterans access to quality healthcare and help reduce wait times, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has published a proposed rule extending what it defines as Full Practice Authority to Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) serving in the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), triggering a 60-day public comment period ending on July 25, 2016.

The [VHA proposal appears here](#) and was published in the *Federal Register* on May 25. The rule protects Veteran patient safety, defines Full Practice Authority within the VHA system and its facilities, and defines an APRN as a person who has successfully completed an accredited graduate-level educational program in one of the four distinct APRN roles (Certified Nurse Practitioner, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist, Clinical Nurse Specialist, and Certified Nurse-Midwife), has passed a national certification exam, and possesses licensure in a state.

The proposal is consistent with the recommendations of the [National Academy of Medicine](#), the [congressionally mandated Independent Assessment of the VA](#), and current policy in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Forward Surgical Teams, and Indian Health Service health systems.

We urge you to support the VHA proposed rule by contacting the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, [submitting a public comment](#), and cosponsoring [S 2279](#) / [HR 1247](#) / [HR 4134](#). We also ask House members to oppose and not sign a Benishek-Brownley Dear Colleague letter attacking this proposal.

Should you have any questions, please contact Frank Purcell, Senior Director of Federal Government Affairs at the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, at 202-484-8400 or [fpurcell@aanadc.com](mailto:fpurcell@aanadc.com). Thank you.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Nursing (AAN)  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN)  
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA)  
American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP)  
American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM)  
American Nurses Association (ANA)  
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association (GAPNA)  
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists (NACNS)  
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH)  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP)  
National League for Nursing (NLN)  
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF)