

## **A Call to Action: AAHFN Advocacy is Supporting ICAN**

The Improving Care and Access to Nurses Act (ICAN) promotes patient access to health care services delivered by the provider of their choice by removing outdated Medicare and Medicaid barriers on Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs).

APRNs are prepared at the masters or doctoral level to provide primary, acute, chronic and specialty care to patients of all ages and backgrounds, and in all settings. APRNs include nurse practitioners, nurse anesthetists, nurse-midwives, and clinical nurse specialists, and all play a pivotal role in the future of health care. They provide health care to patients in all settings and geographic areas, often in rural and underserved community-based settings.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, APRNs were able to practice at the top of their license through the use of federal and state Public Health Emergency (PHE) waivers. APRNs shored up healthcare capacity all while providing quality patient care. The ICAN Act will permanently remove the barriers that were waived during the PHE and improve access to care for patients in the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

Removing these barriers is consistent with recommendations from several organizations such as the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, the American Enterprise Institute, the Brookings Institute, the Bipartisan Policy Center, the World Health Organization, the National Governors Association, and the Federal Trade Commission.

This is a common-sense bill that will streamline care for patients!

*We know that personalized letters have an even greater impact – if this legislation will directly impact your work or the work of a nurse you know, please consider sharing your story in the note to Congress.*

**<https://p2a.co/L8hkLFz>**

## **A Call to Action: AAHFN Advocacy Supports Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act**

Overall, the likelihood of health care workers being exposed to violence is *higher than prison guards or police officers* – with 1 in 4 nurses having been assaulted at work. And care settings have only become riskier and more intense since the COVID-19 pandemic.

We cannot address workforce shortages without addressing working conditions as they go hand in hand. The Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act, H.R. 2663/S. 1176, works to address this critical issue.

If passed, the bill would ensure that health care providers will be ready and able to protect themselves, their coworkers, and their patients should the need arise. It would also require the

Occupational Safety and Health Administration to develop and enforce specific standards for health care and social service employers to hold them accountable for protecting their employees.

For years, ANA has been leading the charge to address workplace violence by raising awareness about this issue and pushing for regulatory and legislative solutions. Now, AAHFN is joining with other leading nursing organizations; we need you to make your voice heard and email your elected officials about this important issue.

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[Urge your Elected Officials to Co-Sponsor this Bill! \(p2a.co\)](#)

### **A Call to Action: AAHFN Advocacy is Supporting: National Nursing Centers Workforce Act**

States need data to determine what types of nursing resources they need in their state, including where there are shortages, what nursing services are needed, and to **study issues within the profession** that can profoundly impact care. Federally-supported institutions, such as the National Advisory Council on Nurse Education and Practice, National Center for Health Workforce Analysis, and Health Workforce Research Centers, research and advise on policies related to the national healthcare workforce. While these entities inform health workforce planning and policy at a national level, policies developed based on national data may not always make sense for individual regions, states, or local jurisdictions.

**State nursing workforce centers fill this gap.** Nursing workforce centers are hubs that advance nursing education, practice, leadership, and workforce development at the state and local levels using data-driven approaches. Services of a nursing workforce center typically include conducting localized research; publishing reports related to supply, demand, and educational capacity of the nursing workforce; and implementing other activities to improve the nursing workforce in their states.

AAHFN is joining with several other nursing organizations in urging members of Congress to cosponsor the **National Nursing Workforce Centers Act** (S. 1150/H.R. 2411). This legislation would create a 2-year pilot program to enable existing state nursing workforce centers to boost local nursing workforces and better evaluate the recruitment of nurses and factors contributing to nurse retention. States without nursing workforce centers will be able to establish one to respond to both nursing workforce and community needs.

Since every state needs an **individual approach** to influence the nursing shortage, workforce centers implement evidence informed strategies to make the biggest impact. This legislation will foster collaboration and coordination, enabling state and local experts to identify and address unique challenges to improve the strength of the nursing workforce.

**This bill is being led by Representatives Young Kim, Lisa Blunt Rochester, and Senators Jeff Merkley and Thom Tillis.**

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[Urge Congress to support the National Nursing Workforce Centers Act! \(p2a.co\)](#)

**A Call to Action: AAHFN Advocacy is Supporting The Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act**

Not only does the United States suffer from one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world, but it is also one of only a few countries in the world where maternal mortality rates are actually **rising**. Maternal mortality rates for Black and Native Americans are **2 to 4 times** higher than their white counterparts. Hispanic and Asian-American Pacific Islanders (AAPI) people also experience elevated rates of maternal morbidity.

However, data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicates that **more than 80%** of pregnancy-related deaths in the United States are preventable. We know there are solutions to mitigate these preventable deaths.

A new proposal, The Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act, or ‘Momnibus’, is a combination of individuals bills all written to address the maternal health crisis. We have highlighted two of the acts to illustrate how vital and necessary this bill is. The Kira Johnson Act for example, will fund community-based organizations working to advance maternal health equity. The Perinatal Workforce Act will invest in and grow the number of maternity care providers offering culturally congruent care to mothers and babies. These are just two pieces of legislation comprising the ‘Momnibus’ that will have a direct impact on maternal health in the United States.

We are asking Congress to take action and pass the ‘Momnibus’! We know this legislation will save lives.

On behalf of your patients, and in honor of mothers, babies, and families in need of care, let's get this done.

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[Tell Congress to Support the Momnibus! \(p2a.co\)](#)

