



August 29, 2018

Secretary Alex Azar
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Avenue S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Azar:

On behalf of the Nursing Community Coalition, representing 60 national nursing organizations, we applaud your August 9, 2018 remarks underscoring the need to ensure that scope of practice laws do not act as barriers to healthcare competition and lower-cost market solutions. The Nursing Community Coalition strongly believes all providers should be able to practice to the full extent of their education and clinical training to ensure patients have increased access to optimal care.

We greatly appreciate your well-founded concern over the detrimental effects of burdensome scope of practice rules. Moreover, we fully support the evaluation of state and local regulations that restrict APRN practice authority. The Coalition encourages you to go a step further and minimize laws that impede access and increase cost at the federal level as well. Too often scope of practice regulations hinder access to quality care, serving as de facto anti-competition rules that limit consumer choice and drive up costs.

As healthcare providers who deliver safe, high-quality, and affordable care to our patients, we know firsthand the unfortunate effect these barriers have on our patients and their access to health care, especially in rural and underserved regions. The Nursing Community Coalition would be honored to meet with you, and other appropriate officials from the Department of Health and Human Services, to discuss scope of practice issues and how we can be a resource in opening up free-market healthcare options for consumers.

The Nursing Community Coalition thanks you again for your attention to this important issue. We welcome the opportunity to work with you as we continue to address scope of practice barriers. If the Nursing Community Coalition can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate me, at 202-463-6930 or smiyamoto@aacnnursing.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Suzanne Miyamoto".

Suzanne Miyamoto, PhD, RN, FAAN
Executive Director