

## **Rep. Susan Wild Remarks for EC Member Day Hearing**

- Thank you Chairman Pallone and Ranking Member Walden for allowing me to discuss H.R. 2150, the *Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act*—a bipartisan bill introduced by Representatives Schakowsky, Carter, Kind, Kelly, Joyce and myself. I thank each of them for their support and leadership on this bill, as well as the 89 other members of Congress who have lent their support through co-sponsorship.
- This bill recognizes that good patient outcome isn't possible without access to quality providers. It would eliminate significant barriers that stand in the way of providing necessary care to patients. Our nation faces a shortage of primary care physicians—a shortage that will only worsen as our population ages. To tackle this shortage, our health care delivery system must demonstrate flexibility to meet patient needs.
- Unfortunately, there are several outdated rules in our Medicare system that prevent nurse practitioners from delivering timely, high quality health care to their patients.
- For example, there is the requirement that home health orders be certified by a physician, and that the physician create the plan of care, as well as approve any updates to that plan of care. This is required even if the physician is not involved in the patient assessment.
- Nurse practitioners are now the largest Medicare specialty and fastest growing provider. Nurse Practitioners hold RN licenses, graduate degrees, and national certifications. They own their own clinics, have their own panels of patients, and provide care to patients of all ages – especially in rural and underserved areas. From 1998 to 2010, the number of Medicare patients receiving NP care increased 15 fold.
- That's why, today, I am urging the Committee to consider, markup, and pass H.R. 2150. By granting nurse practitioners and physician assistants greater autonomy in ordering home health services for Medicare beneficiaries—as this bill does— we can ensure timely access to care while also reducing healthcare costs. This bill is bipartisan in both the House and Senate and has nearly 100 cosponsors, including 20 cosponsors from this committee. It is also supported by a broad coalition of organizations and constituents around the nation, including but not limited to AARP, American Academy of

Nursing, American Academy of PA-Cs, and the American Nurses Association.

- One of the reasons I ran for Congress was to make differences in my constituents' lives. This bill can make that difference by getting patients prompt care in the comfort of their own homes and avoiding additional presentations to emergency departments, sub-acute care facilities, and nursing homes.
- Thank you.

Energy & Commerce Committee Cosponsors include:

Rep. Blunt Rochester, Lisa [D-DE-At Large]

Rep. Cardenas, Tony [D-CA-29]

Rep. Carter, Earl L. "Buddy" [R-GA-1]\*

Rep. Castor, Kathy [D-FL-14]

Rep. Clarke, Yvette D. [D-NY-9]

Rep. Dingell, Debbie [D-MI-12]

Rep. Doyle, Michael F. [D-PA-18]

Rep. Gianforte, Greg [R-MT-At Large]

Rep. Griffith, H. Morgan [R-VA-9]

Rep. Johnson, Bill [R-OH-6]

Rep. Kuster, Ann M. [D-NH-2]

Rep. Matsui, Doris O. [D-CA-6]

Rep. McKinley, David B. [R-WV-1]

Rep. McMorris Rodgers, Cathy [R-WA-5]

Rep. McNerney, Jerry [D-CA-9]

Rep. O'Halleran, Tom [D-AZ-1]

Rep. Olson, Pete [R-TX-22]

Rep. Peters, Scott H. [D-CA-52]

Rep. Schrader, Kurt [D-OR-5]

Rep. Tonko, Paul [D-NY-20]