October 23, 2019

The Honorable Alex M. Azar II
Secretary
Office of the Secretary
The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Hubert H. Humphrey Building
200 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Azar:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), we are writing today to applaud the President’s recent Executive Order (#13890) on Protecting and Improving Medicare for Our Nation’s Seniors and offer our support in helping the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) implement the provisions.

The APRN Workgroup is comprised of organizations representing Advanced Nursing Education, Certified Nurse-Midwives (CNMs), experts in maternal and women’s healthcare throughout the lifespan; Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNSs) offering acute, chronic, specialty and community healthcare services; Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) who provide the full range of anesthesia services as well as chronic pain management; and Nurse Practitioners (NPs) delivering primary care, acute, chronic, specialty and community healthcare. In every setting and region, for every population particularly among the rural and medically underserved, America’s growing numbers of highly educated APRNs advance healthcare access and quality improvement in the United States and promote cost-effective healthcare delivery. APRNs are defined in federal law as Certified Nurse-Midwives, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists, Clinical Nurse Specialists, and Nurse Practitioners (P.L. 111-148, Sec. 5509).

We appreciate that the Administration is committed to removing burdensome regulatory barriers to care, including taking steps to allow qualified providers to practice at the top of their profession. The evidence shows that removing barriers to APRN practice will help maintain patient safety, lower healthcare costs and improve patient access to care.

Consistent with the intent of the Executive Order, we have identified outdated and unnecessary Medicare program requirements that restrict APRN practice and should be eliminated or modified. We request a meeting with you to discuss these barriers and on HHS implementation of the Executive Order as it relates to APRNs. We appreciate your consideration of our views. If you have any questions, please contact Ralph Kohl at 202-741-9080 or via email at rkohl@aanadc.com.

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
American Organization for Nursing Leadership, AONL
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