March 15, 2018

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Chairman
US House Committee on Ways and Means
1102 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal
Ranking Member
US House Committee on Ways and Means
1102 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter Roskam
Chairman
US House Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Health
1102 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sander Levin
Ranking Member
US House Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Health
1102 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Brady and Roskam and Ranking Members Neal and Levin:

As a workgroup of Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) organizations, we welcome the opportunity to submit comments on your request for stakeholder feedback that will help develop future legislation to help solve the opioid epidemic. Our organizations share the committees’ concern about the increase in opioid drug use, abuse and deaths and is committed to working collaboratively toward comprehensive solutions to curb the opioid epidemic in the United States.

The APRN Workgroup is comprised of organizations representing Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) who provide the full range of anesthesia services as well as chronic pain management; Certified Nurse-Midwives (CNMs) expert in primary care, maternal and women’s health; Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNSs) offering acute, chronic, specialty and community healthcare services; and Nurse Practitioners (NPs) delivering primary care, acute care, chronic, and specialized care and community healthcare. Totaling roughly 340,000 healthcare professionals, including two of the ten largest categories of Medicare Part B provider specialties according to Medicare claims data, our primary interests are patient wellness and improving access to safe and cost-effective healthcare services. 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.

The APRN community shares the House Ways and Means Committee’s and the Subcommittee on Health’s concerns about the increase in opioid drug use, abuse and deaths. We are committed to working collaboratively toward comprehensive solutions to curb the opioid epidemic in the United States with APRNs playing a key role in the process. APRNs provide access to safe and high-quality healthcare and support using alternative non-pharmacologic and pharmacologic modalities for pain management that minimize the use of opioids.
We appreciate your consideration of our views on this important issue. APRNs are essential to helping resolve the widespread opioid drug crisis, a huge challenge facing our nation’s healthcare system, with services that eliminate or decrease the use of opioids to address pain. If you have any questions, please contact Ralph Kohl at 202-741-9080 or via email at rkohl@aanadc.com.

Sincerely,

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 of Nurse Executives (AONE)
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association (GAPNA)
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists (NACNS)
National League for Nursing (NLN)
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP)