



December 8, 2023

The Honorable Tim Walberg
U.S. House of Representatives
2266 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Joe Courtney
U.S. House of Representatives
2449 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Walberg and Courtney:

On behalf of the Healthcare Leadership Council (HLC), I am writing to express our support for H.R. 618, the “Improving Access to Workers’ Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act.” This legislation recognizes the need for additional providers to diagnose medical conditions, certify injury and extent of disability, and oversee patient treatment and care under the Federal Employees’ Compensation Program. The overwhelming bipartisan vote in support of this legislation in the previous Congress demonstrated the need to update obsolete laws and ensure access to care.

HLC is a coalition of chief executives from all disciplines within American healthcare. It is the exclusive forum for the nation’s healthcare leaders to jointly develop policies, plans, and programs to achieve their vision of a 21st century healthcare system that makes affordable high-quality care accessible to all Americans. Members of HLC – hospitals, academic health centers, health plans, pharmaceutical companies, medical device manufacturers, laboratories, biotech firms, health product distributors, post-acute care providers, home care providers, and information technology companies – advocate for measures to increase the quality and efficiency of healthcare through a patient-centered approach.

The Federal Employees’ Compensation Act (FECA) has been long overdue for an update. FECA limits the ability of nurse practitioners to provide care and treatment for injured or ill federal workers. Currently, a majority of states authorize nurse practitioners to provide the diagnosis and treatment for a workplace related injury. With more than 400 million patient visits annually, nurse practitioners and physician assistants are an essential part of today’s healthcare system. Updating the federal workers’ compensation program will better reflect the role of nurse practitioners and physician assistants in today’s healthcare delivery system and will allow federal employees to receive healthcare from their provider of choice while also improving access to care.

HLC supports creative and multi-faceted efforts to strengthen and grow the healthcare workforce including allowing all providers to practice to the full scope of their license. Passage of H.R. 618 is needed to update outdated laws around healthcare delivery.

Thank you for your efforts to ensure access to care for federal employees. HLC looks forward to working with you on our shared priorities. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Debbie Witchey at dwitchey@hlc.org or 202-449-3435 with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary R. Grealy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mary" being the most prominent.

Mary R. Grealy
President