

May 2, 2025

The Honorable Tim Walberg  
Chairman, House Committee on Education and  
Workforce  
2176 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joe Courtney  
2449 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Walberg and Congressman Courtney,

On behalf of the over 431,000 nurse practitioners (NPs) in the United States, the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) writes in support of H.R. 3170, the *Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act*. This is commonsense legislation supports federal workers who are injured at work; increases patient access and choice; and according to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), would have no significant impact on federal spending while ensuring employees are able to return to work faster.<sup>1,2</sup> We appreciate your leadership on this critical bipartisan issue and respectfully request your continued support through swift Committee action and urging Leadership to consider the bill on the House Floor.

As you know, under current law, federal employees can select an NP as their health care provider under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP). However, if that same federal employee is injured or becomes ill at work, the Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA) requires that they change providers for their workers' compensation claim. FECA currently states that only a physician can make the diagnosis, certify the injury and extent of the disability, and oversee a federal employee's treatment and care. Not only is this an outdated requirement, but it is also contrary to the majority of state workers' compensation laws, FEHBP, and the medical documentation requirements for disability claims under the Social Security Administration. This requirement also places an additional burden on federal employees, depriving them from receiving health care from their provider of choice, as well as hindering timely access to care and continuity of care.

Passage of H.R. 3170 would update the federal workers' compensation program and authorize NPs to certify disabilities and oversee treatment for injured or ill federal employees under FECA, consistent with state law. This would improve access to health care for injured or ill federal employees, particularly in rural and underserved communities. According to CBO, the bill is budget neutral because, while it may increase access to care for injured federal employees, it would also enable them to return to work more quickly.<sup>3</sup> Updating FECA to authorize federal employees to select their health care provider of choice when they are injured or become ill in the course of their federal employment will achieve greater access, overall efficiency, better continuity of care, and enable federal employees to return to work more quickly, all at no cost and consistent with state law.

Access to health care providers for injured federal workers continues to be an issue across the nation. In the Department of Labor's (DOL) 2022 Report to Congress, DOL stated that "the lack of sufficient medical providers willing and available to treat injured federal workers has been a growing challenge for

<sup>1</sup> Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate on H.R. 6087, <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files?file=2022-05/hr6087.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate on H.R. 618, <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2024-06/hr5567EdW.pdf>

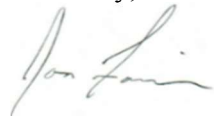
<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

the program”<sup>4</sup> noting that “injured workers have expressed difficulty in finding medical providers for treatment.”<sup>5</sup> Further, a bipartisan Congressional delegation sent a letter to the Department of Labor identifying an “inability to get appointments with local providers” within the federal workers’ compensation program as an issue for their constituents.<sup>6</sup>

As you know, this legislation has a strong history of bipartisan support in the 117<sup>th</sup> and 118<sup>th</sup> Congresses. We greatly appreciate the support of the Committee in passing this legislation by voice vote in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress, and your strong words of support when this legislation was considered on the House Floor. The Committee’s leadership led to the legislation passing the House of Representatives in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress with broad bipartisan support by a vote of 325-83. In the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress, this bill was unanimously reported out of the Committee on Education and the Workforce on a 36-0 vote.<sup>7</sup>

AANP thanks you for your continued efforts to improve the health care system for our nation’s federal employees. We look forward to working together to ensure timely access to care is provided to our federal employees by the provider of their choice. Should you have comments or questions, please direct them to MaryAnne Sapio, V.P. Federal Government Affairs, [msapio@aanp.org](mailto:msapio@aanp.org), 703-740-2529.

Sincerely,



Jon Fanning, MS, CAE, CNED  
Chief Executive Officer  
American Association of Nurse Practitioners

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid

<sup>5</sup> Ibid

<sup>6</sup> [Sorensen, Durbin, Duckworth, Grassley, Miller-Meeks Lead Effort to Improve Workers’ Compensation Access for Federal Workers in the Quad Cities | Representative Eric Sorensen](#)

<sup>7</sup> [Actions - H.R.618 - 118th Congress \(2023-2024\): Improving Access to Workers’ Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act | Congress.gov | Library of Congress](#)