

## SUMMARY

### Testimony Regarding H.R. 2713, the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2015

- Adopt the CNS-related amendments contained in H.R. 2713, the *Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2015*.
- Changes include:
  - ❖ Inserting a definition of the clinical nurse specialist (CNS) in the Advanced Education Nursing Grants program [42 U.S.C. S 296j]
  - ❖ Adding the CNS to the list of nursing specialties that can serve on the National Advisory Council on Nurse Education and Practice [42 U.S.C. S 297t].



**Testimony Regarding H.R. 2713, the Title VIII Nursing  
Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2015  
November 8, 2015**

**To:** Subcommittee on Health, Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives

**Submitted by:** Peggy Barksdale, MSN, RN, OCNS-C, CNS-BC, President, National Association of  
Clinical Nurse Specialists

The National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists (NACNS) is the voice of more than 70,000 clinical nurse specialists (CNSs). CNSs are licensed registered nurses who have graduate preparation (master's or doctorate) in nursing as a clinical nurse specialist. They have unique and advanced level competencies that meet the increased needs of improving quality and reducing costs in today's healthcare system. CNSs provide direct patient care, including assessment, diagnosis, and management of patient healthcare issues. They are leaders of change in health organizations, developers of scientific evidence-based programs to prevent avoidable complications, and coaches of those with chronic diseases to prevent hospital readmissions. CNSs are facilitators of multidisciplinary teams in acute and chronic care facilities to improve the quality and safety of care, including preventing hospital acquired infections, reducing length of stays, and preventing hospital readmissions.

The NACNS urges the subcommittee to adopt the CNS-related amendments contained in H.R. 2713, the ***Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2015***, which would align with current nursing roles and practice. These changes include inserting a definition of the clinical

nurse specialist in the Advanced Education Nursing Grants program [42 U.S.C. S 296j] and adding the CNS to the list of nursing specialties that can serve on the National Advisory Council on Nurse Education and Practice [42 U.S.C. S 297t]. As one of the four advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) roles, these changes regarding CNSs would align with the APRN Consensus Model.

The Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs provide training for entry-level and advanced degree nurses to improve the access to, and quality of, health care in underserved areas. They are fundamental to the infrastructure delivering quality, cost-effective health care. NACNS believes that the deepening health inequities, inflated costs, and poor quality of healthcare outcomes in this country will not be reversed until the concurrent shortages of nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, and qualified nurse educators are addressed.

Your support of S. 2713 will help ensure that future nurses exist who are prepared and qualified to take care of you, your family, and all those who will need our care. Without national efforts of some magnitude to match the healthcare reality facing the nation today, an under resourced nurse education and its adverse effect in health care generally will be difficult to avoid.

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