



Spread the Word: Home Health "Virtual Capitol Hill Day"

On June 21, 2012 AANP members will be asked to join together in support of S 227/HR 2267 *the Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act of 2011*. On that day, we are asking that you participate in a "Virtual Capitol Hill Day," by contacting their Members of Congress and asking them to cosponsor these important bills.

PLAN TO GET INVOLVED! By taking just a few minutes to take action, you can help us to have a tremendous impact. Just follow the 3 simple steps below.

What is the *Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act of 2011*?

HR 2267/ S 227 the *Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act of 2011*, as introduced by Representatives Greg Walden and Allyson Schwartz in the House of Representatives and Senators Susan Collins and Kent Conrad in the Senate, recognizes and authorizes nurse practitioners as eligible health care professionals who can order home health services under their own signatures, ensuring that patients requiring these services receive optimal continuity of care. Currently only physicians can sign orders for home health care services despite the fact that nurse practitioners as authorized Medicare providers sign orders for skilled nursing care, procedures and care in and out of hospitals.

Plan to Take Action!

Step 1: Click on the link of cosponsors to see if your legislator/s are already cosponsors, go to: <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d112:HR02267:/home/LegislativeData.php>. If your member of Congress is already a cosponsor of this bill, take a moment to say "thanks for being a leader on this important issue". Saying thanks is an easy way to let your members of Congress know that their efforts are appreciated and it may make them more inclined to help out in the future!

Step 2: Plan your message. The easiest and most effective ways to reach your member of Congress are to call his/her Washington, DC office, or send an email through the AANP Advocacy Center. (See below). If you would prefer, members of Congress have online email systems that you can access directly through their web pages (found at www.house.gov and www.senate.gov respectively.) You can also find the phone numbers for your members' Washington, DC offices on their web sites. You can use the letter below as a guide for your email or phone conversation.

Step 3: Call, email or send your messages through the AANP Advocacy Center which can be accessed by pressing the Advocacy Center site on the AANP webpage and following the instructions for the Ordering Home Health Improvement Act of 2011. <http://www.capwiz.com/aanp/home/>

For Sample letters and Fact Sheet, go to: <http://www.aanp.org/legislation-regulation/federal-legislation/medicare>