

SENATE SAMPLE LETTER
HOME HEALTH CARE FOR NURSE PRACTITIONER PROGRAMS
(S 227)

The Honorable _____
Address

Dear Senator _____

I am writing to ask for your help with a major problem individuals needing home health care services are having in our state at this time. Currently, the conditions of participation in Medicare Part A, allow home health care agencies to accept authorization for services of patients to be eligible for home health services from physicians, but not other primary care providers such as nurse practitioners. As a result, Medicare patients who are being seen by a nurse practitioner must be certified by a physician, at extra cost, and often at great inconvenience, in order to obtain home health services. While nurse practitioners are authorized to perform physician services under Part B of Medicare law, we are told that language in Part A that governs these programs prevents these agencies from accepting our authorization for services. I would appreciate your help in correcting this problem by encouraging the passage of S 227 Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act of 2011 introduced by Senator Susan Collins (R/ME).

Nurse practitioners have a long history of providing high quality, cost effective care to patients of all ages. We are particularly prepared to manage the problems of patients with chronic diseases and the elderly, and should be able to certify Medicare patient eligible for these services. We would appreciate your assistance in resolving this issue.

If you need further information, please feel free to call or contact the Office of Health Policy of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (202-966-6414).

*[*You may wish to add your personal experiences to this letter]*

Address: Senator: The Honorable _____
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

We recommend that you fax and/or email your Senator as well, since regular mail still passes through lengthy security inspection.

Please cc copies of your correspondence to Dr. Jan Towers, Office of Health Policy, American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, Box 40130, Washington, DC 20016