➢ **Home Health**

- NPs are Part B Medicare providers who are reimbursed for providing medical services to patients. They order therapies, bill for telemedicine services, order, perform, interpret and supervise diagnostic tests and certify eligibility for skilled nursing care
- NPs are attending providers in Home Health Care, but are still unable to certify eligibility without physician documentation
- **Cosponsor (H.R. 1825/S. 445) to Amend Title XVIII of the Social Security Act to Ensure More Timely Access to Home Health Services for Medicare Beneficiaries Under the Medicare Program.**

➢ **Diabetic Shoes**

- Currently, NPs must send their diabetic patients who need therapeutic shoes to a physician to certify that need. Additionally, according to current statute, the certifying physician must be the provider treating the patient’s diabetic condition going forward.
- Delays in treatment, caused by this burdensome statute, jeopardize the health of patients and cause the Medicare program to incur additional costs by requiring the participation of an additional provider.
- **Cosponsor H.R. 1617 which would authorize nurse practitioners (NPs) to certify their patient’s need for therapeutic shoes.**

➢ **Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs)**

- Affordable Care Act recognizes NPs as professionals eligible to participate in Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs). Under the Medicare Shared Savings Program, the statute prevents Medicare beneficiaries who receive their primary care services from NPs from being assigned to ACOs in the program.
- This restriction makes it impossible for NP practices to independently join or establish their own ACOs.
- **Cosponsor H.R. 1160 to improve the way beneficiaries are assigned under the Medicare Shared Savings Program. This legislation would allow the assignment of nurse practitioner patients to Medicare Shared Savings ACOs.**
AANP Key Facts

- There are more than 234,000 nurse practitioners (NPs) practicing in the U.S.
- NPs have 6+ years of academic and clinical preparation while the profession has over 5 decades of improving patient access and quality care.
- NPs complete at least 6 years of academic and clinical preparation.
- In 2017, more than 89% of NPs were prepared in primary care programs.
- 72% of NPs accept Medicare patients and 78% accept Medicaid patients.
- Over 1.02 billion annual patient visits estimated.
- The National Governors Association, IOM, FTC, AARP, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and others have all called for the reduction of barriers to practice for NPs.
- NPs hold prescriptive privileges in all 50 states and D.C.