

Sample Letter to the Editor
Issue: Nurse Practitioner Scope of Practice

To the Editor:

This October millions of Americans received health care coverage through the state health exchanges, part of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Additionally, thousands of baby boomers are turning 65 every day. This expansion of coverage comes at a time when our nation faces an aging population requiring more health care services and, on top of that, a dire nursing shortage.

In 2010, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) released a report, "The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health," which identified a number of barriers that prevent nurses from being able to adapt to the evolving health care system. The report recommended that nurses should practice to the full extent of their education and training; nurses should achieve higher levels of education and training through an improved education system that promotes seamless academic progression; nurses should be full partners, with physicians and other health care professionals, in redesigning health care in the United States; and effective workforce planning and policy making require better data collection and information infrastructure.

At this critical time of increased health care needs, it is now more than ever critical that nurses be recognized to practice at the full extent of their education and training.

When Congress reconvenes, I urge Senator Warren, Senator Markey, and Representative Lynch to take action to allow nurses to practice to the full extent of their education and licensing in order to ensure that patients are guaranteed access to the quality care they need.

Sincerely,

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