



June 25, 2026

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
Chairwoman, Committee on Rules
United States House of Representatives
H-312, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable James McGovern
Ranking Member, Committee on Rules
United States House of Representatives
H-152, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Foxx and Ranking Member McGovern:

On behalf of the 54 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC), we urge you to accept amendment 103 during the Rules Committee's hearing on H.R.8800, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2027. This amendment is offered by Chairman Walberg and Representatives Courtney and Kiggans, and is based on H.R.3170, the Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act. The NCC is a cross section of education, practice, research, and regulation within the nursing profession, representing Registered Nurses (RNs), Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs),¹ nurse leaders, boards of nursing, students, faculty, and researchers. Together, the NCC supports this amendment.

Amendment 103 is a no cost solution which will retire outdated barriers in the Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA) that limit the ability of nurse practitioners (NPs) to diagnose and oversee the care and treatment of federal employees, including Department of Defense civilian employees, Civil Air Patrol volunteers, and Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) cadets, who are injured or become ill in the course of their employment. Additionally, this amendment includes report language specific to reviewing FECA claims for DOD civilians. Retiring these barriers will ensure our nation's federal employees, including DOD civilians, have timely access to care when injured on the job.

Currently, federal employees can select an NP as their health care provider under the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program. However, contrary to the workers' compensation process in the majority of states, FECA requires that only a physician can make the diagnosis, certify the injury and extent of the disability, and oversee the patient's treatment and care. This barrier places an additional burden on the over 700,000 DOD civilians and other federal employees, depriving them from receiving health care from their provider of choice, as well as hindering timely access to care and continuity of care.²

¹ APRNs include certified nurse-midwives (CNMs), certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs), clinical nurse specialists (CNSs) and nurse practitioners (NPs)

² GAO, CIVILIAN WORKFORCE: DOD Should Assess Lessons Learned to Better Understand Reduction Impacts. Report to Congress. GAO-26-108100. Published: May 29, 2026. Publicly Released: May 29, 2026. Retrieved from: https://files.gao.gov/reports/GAO-26-108100/index.html?_gl=1*1813lbg*_ga*OTE3NjI3NTQ4LjE3ODE3MDczNzA.*_ga_V393SNS3SR*_czE3ODE3MDczNjkkbzEkZzAkddE3ODE3MDczNjkkajYwJGwwJGgw

This amendment would update FECA and authorize NPs to certify disabilities and oversee treatment for injured or ill federal employees. This would improve access to health care for injured or ill federal employees, particularly in rural and underserved communities, and align the federal workers' compensation program with state law. Updating FECA to authorize federal employees to select their health care provider of choice when they are injured or become ill in the course of their federal employment ensures greater access, improves efficiency, and provides continuity of care.

We appreciate the Committee's consideration of this amendment. Should you have any questions or if the Nursing Community Coalition can be of any additional assistance please contact the coalition's Executive Director, Rachel Minahan at rstevenson@thenursingcommunity.org.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
Academy of Neonatal Nursing
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners
American Academy of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
American Association of Heart Failure Nurses
American Association of Neuroscience Nurses
American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American Association of Occupational Health Nurses
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Nephrology Nurses Association
American Nurses Association
American Organization for Nursing Leadership
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Public Health Association, Public Health Nursing Section
American Society for Pain Management Nursing
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses
Association of Public Health Nurses
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
Association of Veterans Affairs Nurse Anesthetists
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service
Dermatology Nurses' Association
DNPs of Color
Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association

Infusion Nurses Society
International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Association of Hispanic Nurses
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of School Nurses
National Black Nurses Association
National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers
National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence
National League for Nursing
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs
Oncology Nursing Society
Organization for Associate Degree Nursing
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Society of Pediatric Nurses
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates
Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nurses Society

cc:

Members, Committee on Rules
Chairman Mike Rogers, House Armed Services Committee
Ranking Member Adam Smith, House Armed Services Committee