

ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ
13TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
SELECT REVENUE MEASURES
SOCIAL SECURITY
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3813

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
330 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
TEL: (202) 225-6111
FAX: (202) 226-0611

DISTRICT OFFICES:
7219 FRANKFORD AVENUE
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19135
TEL: (215) 335-3355
FAX: (215) 333-4508

706 WEST AVENUE
JENKINTOWN, PA 19046
TEL: (215) 517-6572
FAX: (215) 517-6575

www.house.gov/schwartz

Ensure Timely Access to Home Health Care

Dear Colleague:

I am writing to urge you to cosponsor the *Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act, H.R.4993*, my proposal to ensure our seniors and disabled citizens have timely access to home health services under Medicare.

Nurse practitioners (NP), physician assistants (PA), certified nurse midwives (CNM) and clinical nurse specialists (CNS) are all playing increasingly important roles in the delivery of health care services, particularly in medically-underserved and rural areas of our country where physicians may be in scarce supply.

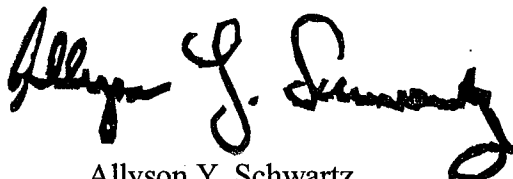
Even though nurse practitioners and physician assistants are currently able to order nursing home care for Medicare beneficiaries, they are not able to order less costly and less intrusive home care services. For the many seniors who see an NP or PA as their primary care provider, this outdated rule just means an extra step (and often an extra office visit with an unknown physician) before they are able to get the home health care they need.

The *Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act, H.R.4993*, would ensure that our Medicare beneficiaries get the home health care they need in a timely manner by allowing physician assistants, nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists and certified nurse midwives to order home health services in accordance with State law.

This bill is supported by: National Association for Home Care and Hospice, American Nurses Association, American Academy of Physician Assistants, American College of Nurse Midwives, American College of Nurse Practitioners, American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, American Association of Colleges of Nursing, National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties, Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association, National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health, and the Visiting Nurse Associations of America.

For more information, or to join me in cosponsoring this important legislation, please contact Kelly Hall on my staff at 5-6111 or at Kelly.Hall@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Allyson Y. Schwartz
Member of Congress