



ARN Supports the Put a Registered Nurse in a Nursing Home Act (H.R. 952)

The Association of Rehabilitation Nurses (ARN) is a professional nursing organization representing more than 5,300 rehabilitation nurses and more than 13,000 Certified Rehabilitation Registered Nurses (CRRN). ARN promotes and advances professional rehabilitation nursing practice through education, advocacy, collaboration, and research to enhance quality of life for those affected by disability and chronic illness.

Put a Registered Nurse in a Nursing Home Act

The *Put a Registered Nurse in a Nursing Home Act* (H.R. 952), was introduced by Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) on February 12, 2015. The bill would require skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) to have at least one direct care Registered Nurse (RN) on duty 24 hours per day, 7 days a week.

Health care is being delivered in an increasing number of settings across the care continuum, including SNFs, and this legislation will ensure the best possible outcomes for individuals with disabilities and chronic illness while reducing long-term financial strain on the healthcare system. Rehabilitation nurses play a vital role in chronic disease and disability care and implementation of the *Put a Registered Nurse in the Nursing Home Act* will ensure that the healthcare delivery system supports the provision of high-quality and high-value care.

ARN strongly supports efforts to ensure people with physical disability and chronic illness have access to comprehensive, quality care in whichever care setting is most appropriate for them. As the number of individuals affected by physical disability and/or chronic illness rises, a focus on improving the care provided to chronically ill Medicare beneficiaries is critically important.

Recommendation: ARN supports this legislation and has been working with the sponsor to include language that the direct care Registered Nurse have specialized training or experience in rehabilitation.

If you have additional questions about these issues please contact ARN's Health Policy Associate, Jeremy Scott (202/230-5197, jeremy.scott@dbr.com).