



October 16, 2013

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman, Committee on Energy
and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Ranking Member, Committee on Energy
and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Waxman,

The Integrative Healthcare Policy Consortium (IHPC) – a national coalition comprised of 13 organizations and institutions representing a variety of licensed and state and nationally certified healthcare professionals – urges you and your colleagues in Congress to oppose H.R. 2817, the “Protect Patient Access to Quality Health Professionals Act of 2013,” offered by Representative Andy Harris, M.D.

H.R. 2817 would repeal the non-discrimination clause of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (specifically Section 2706(a), Title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act). The non-discrimination provision disallows health plans from “discriminating with respect to participation under the plan or coverage against any healthcare provider who is acting within the scope of that provider’s license or certification under applicable State law”.

Sec 2706 safeguards patient access to non-MD/DO state licensed or state certified providers, including (but not limited to) chiropractors, naturopathic physicians, acupuncturists, massage therapists, osteopaths, optometrists, nurse practitioners and licensed or direct entry midwives and podiatrists, as long as they are licensed by the state and can treat the condition within that provider’s scope of practice. The health insurer can still address provider network quality and adequacy under this provision.

The non-discrimination provision is about giving patients choice in selection of a health care provider. Full interpretation, implementation and enforcement of the nondiscrimination provision benefits patients and community health as a whole, reduces costs, and incidentally, benefit providers. People deserve to have coverage for the provider that best suits their individual needs.

Our organizations urge that members of Congress withhold all support for HR 2817. If the non-discrimination provision is not protected, it is likely that costs for consumers will increase and licensed healthcare providers will be discouraged from delivering qualified care and from participating in provider networks on the exchange . Please ensure that HR 2817 is not enacted into law and do not hesitate to contact us if there are questions about the concerns we have raised, which are of utmost importance to our coalition members.

The Integrative Healthcare Policy Consortium (www.IHPC.org)

The Integrative Healthcare Policy Consortium members includes the American Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine, American Massage Therapy Association, Alliance for Massage Therapy Education, American Association of Naturopathic Physicians, American Academy of Pain Management, Bastyr University, International Chiropractic Association, International Chiropractic Pediatric Association, Life University, National Association of Certified Professional Midwives, National Center for Homeopathy, Naturopathic Medical Student Association, and Palmer Chiropractic College.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: www.ihpc.org

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