

National Health Policy Committee Report~ Board Meeting September 14, 2026

Committee members:

AnnMarie Cooney- Will be assuming chair position for next election cycle.

Patrica Miller- Attended ARN policy training with Anne Marie Cooney.

Issues: The Department of Education changed part of their **professional degree** definition to allow certain degrees to now be identified as a professional degree. This includes multiple post-baccalaureate nursing degrees such as MSN, DNP, and DNAP. However, this list does not include a PhD in nursing. Nursing Organizations will continue to fight for this.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released this final rule that requires Medicaid beneficiaries to prove their **medical frailty** every six months and can only self-attest medical frailty one time. After one self-attestation, beneficiaries need documentation from a medical professional. Additionally, those who have a condition that is eligible for exemption must go a step further and prove that the severity of this condition prevents them from completing the work requirements. These new requirements are burdensome for both patients and medical professionals alike, who are now tasked with filling out a form at least twice a year. The administrative burden will likely cause people to be kicked off their insurance simply for not properly filling out the form. Additionally, some diseases such as cancer do preclude people from working for periods of time, meaning that a patient may lose their coverage if they are unable to meet the work requirements but do not fall into the exemption category. By losing their insurance, patients will not seek care, especially harming those who are most medically vulnerable and making their conditions worse.

Action items: <https://rehabnurse.org/about/advocacy/grassroots-advocacy#/>

Take Action! Urge Congress to Pass the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act

Please fill out the [action alert](#) to urge your Members of Congress to support the passage of this legislation. These programs are critical to supporting and bolstering the nursing workforce by making a career in nursing more accessible. Without reauthorization of the programs, they will not be able to receive appropriations funding and therefore will be effectively eliminated. The ongoing nursing shortages will worsen, causing greater stress on the current workforce, faster nurse burnout, and decreased access to care therefore creating a more acute shortage.