



## International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses

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### **Psychiatric Nurses Respond to the American Medical Association’s Latest Strategy to Reverse Access to Care**

November 30, 2017– The International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses is alarmed by the American Medical Association’s (AMA) recent call for action that has the potential to impede access to care by qualified providers and complicates aspects of an inter-professional, team-based approach to care delivery. At AMA’s recent House of Delegates Interim meeting, the association adopted an amended resolution to create a national strategy to obstruct state and national policies that would allow “non-physician” providers, including Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), from practicing to the full extent of their education, clinical training, and certification. ISPN firmly believes in the value added to the patient, family, and community through the delivery of care for those suffering with mental illness or substance use disorders from all providers, practicing to the full extent of their licensure.

The Institute of Medicine (currently the National Academy of Medicine) calls for the removal of barriers that prevent APRNs from full practice authority in its pinnacle report *Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*. This has served as the platform for widespread efforts to examine scope of practice policies for nearly eight years by stakeholders both within and outside of professional nursing. Additionally, the Federal Trade Commission has urged states to consider laws and regulations that stifle competition in the healthcare sector, as these impose unnecessary and burdensome restrictions on APRN practice, which can negatively affect patients.

The approximately 12,000 U.S. Psychiatric Mental Health Advanced Practice Registered Nurses with state licensure are equipped to provide a wide range of services to adults, children, adolescents, and their families in primary care facilities, outpatient mental health clinics, psychiatric emergency settings, skilled nursing and assisted living facilities, private practices, or in hospital or community health centers. They also provide emergency psychiatric services, psychosocial and physical assessment of their patients, treatment plans, and manage patient care.

The International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses firmly believes we must work together to put patients and their family’s health including mental health first.

For any inquiries, please contact Dr. Rene Love, President, International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses, at [renelove@email.arizona.edu](mailto:renelove@email.arizona.edu)

1. Institute of Medicine. (2010). Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health. Retrieved from: <http://www.nationalacademies.org/hmd/Reports/2010/The-Future-of-Nursing-Leading-Change-Advancing-Health.aspx>. 2. Federal Trade Commission. (2014). Policy Perspectives: Competition and the Regulation of Advanced Practice Nurses. Retrieved from: <http://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/Policy/PDF/APRN-Policy-Paper.pdf>.