[NANN Statement on H.R. 1 Signing from President, Taryn Edwards]

H.R. 1 Delivers Devastating Blow to American Healthcare System and Families

On July 4, 2025, the President of the United States signed H.R. 1 into law, a decision that we at the National Association of Neonatal Nurses (NANN) view with deep concern. This legislation, which strips vital healthcare coverage from nearly 17 million Americans who rely on Medicaid, will have devastating consequences across our healthcare system, particularly for neonates, children, and the families who care for them.

Currently, 41% of Medicaid recipients are children. The passage of H.R. 1 jeopardizes their access to life-saving care, especially in neonatal intensive care units (NICUs) where early interventions can mean the difference between life and death. The impact will be most acutely felt in rural and community hospitals, many of which now face closure due to funding cuts, further reducing access to critical care in already underserved regions. It is important to recognize that the consequences of H.R. 1 will not be limited to Medicaid beneficiaries. Private insurance holders will also face rising costs as hospitals and providers attempt to offset the federal funding shortfall. Ultimately, all Americans will be affected.

Additionally, reductions in programs that provide nutritional support to families will heighten food insecurity and undermine the baseline health of millions of children, particularly in states already grappling with economic hardship. These compounding factors will only widen existing healthcare disparities.

At NANN, advocacy is one of our four strategic pillars. We stand in strong opposition to this legislation and are grateful to the thousands of neonatal nurses and supporters who joined us in urging lawmakers to reject H.R. 1. Although the bill has now become law, our commitment to our patients, their families, and the neonatal nursing profession remains unwavering.

We will continue to advocate for policies that expand access to affordable and equitable neonatal care, protect the well-being of our nation’s most vulnerable, and support the neonatal nursing workforce.

Together, we will not stop fighting for a healthier, more compassionate, and more just healthcare system.