



**Association of Black Cardiologists, Inc.**  
*Saving the Hearts and Minds of a Diverse America*

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**ABC MISSION:**

*To promote the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular disease, including stroke, in Blacks and other minorities and to achieve health equity for all through the elimination of disparities.*

April 17, 2017

The Honorable Lynne Jenkins  
 U.S. House of Representatives  
 1526 Longworth House Office Building  
 Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Lewis  
 U.S. House of Representatives  
 343 Cannon House Office Building  
 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Jenkins and Lewis:

The Association of Black Cardiologists (ABC) is pleased to support the reintroduction of your legislation ([H.R. 1155](#)) that would expand access to cardiac rehabilitation by allowing physician assistants, nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists to supervise cardiac, intensive cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation programs.

Founded in 1974, ABC is a nonprofit organization with an international membership of 1,700 health professionals, lay members of the community (Community Health Advocates), corporate members, and institutional members. The ABC is dedicated to eliminating the disparities related to cardiovascular disease in all people of color. ABC adheres to the vision that all people regardless of race, ethnicity or gender should benefit equally from reduction in the frequency, duration and impact of diseases of the heart and blood vessels.

Cardiac rehabilitation is an essential component of a patient's recovery from a heart attack, heart surgery or for the management of heart failure. Expanding access to this care would not only improve quality of patient care but reduce costly hospital readmissions. Supervision requirements for cardiac rehabilitation are overly burdensome relative to other outpatient services, negatively impacting access to cardiac rehabilitation for our patients.

If enacted, this legislation will allow the cardiovascular community's well-qualified advance practice providers to provide the day-to-day supervision of cardiac rehabilitation, allowing cardiologists to meet the needs of our patients.

On behalf of the ABC members, I thank you for reintroducing this important legislation and please consider the ABC as a resource as you work to pass this bill into law. For further information, please contact Geoff Werth at [gwerth@summithealthconsulting.com](mailto:gwerth@summithealthconsulting.com) or Cassandra McCullough at [cmccullough@abcardio.org](mailto:cmccullough@abcardio.org).

Sincerely,

Felix Sogade, MD  
 Chairman of the Board

Barbara Hutchinson, MD, PhD  
 President