ACA insurance expansion may lead to change in "scope of practice" laws.
The Washington Post (2/28, Kliff, 489K) "Wonkblog" looks into the impact the Affordable Care Act, and its extension of health coverage to millions, will have on "scope of practice" laws across the country. Scope of practice laws "delineate which health-care providers can provide which services," for example, whether a nurse "can make a diagnosis or prescribe medication on her own." And now, with the insurance expansion "looming," nurse practitioners are pushing for these laws to change. As American Association of Nurse Practitioners President Angela Golden told the blog, "We're about to add about 30 million people to our health insurance system and there needs to be someone available to see them. We're uniquely positioned to do that."