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The Maryland Academy of Advanced Practice Clinicians (MAAPC) supports Delegate Bonnie Cullison HB276: Health Occupations – Clinical Nurse Specialists – Prescribing Authority.

Over the past 30 years I have worked with many CNSs, mostly collaborating with them as an ER nurse to help with patient's needs as they were discharged home. As our population has aged, home help is becoming vital but also scarce. CNSs have the time and expertise to find, contact, and follow up on a patient's care after they leave the hospital. It also allows the patient and family to safely wait for an appointment with their primary care provider rather than returning to the hospital for follow-up care.

Allowing CNSs to complete their assessment with the ability to sign their own plan is an invaluable step in keeping our citizens healthier and out of the hospital.

To give you some level of understanding about the impact and enormous importance of the immediate care patients need when leaving the hospital, here is an example from one of my CNS colleagues, Claudia Tilley:

Over 568,000 people have diabetes and over 42,000 are newly diagnosed with diabetes every year. Currently the endocrinology providers for University of Maryland Shore Regional Health include one physician and one nurse practitioner to serve the five counties. Anne Arundel Medical Group also has only one endocrinologist and one nurse practitioner for this same region. There is a definite need for more endocrinology providers and as a Clinical Nurse Specialist with prescriptive authority, I can help fill this gap.

Cost of Diabetes:

Medical expenses are 2.3 times higher than those without diabetes

Diagnosed diabetes cost is estimated at \$7 billion in Maryland

Direct medical expenses are estimated at \$4.9 billion

Indirect expenses \$2.1 billion

(These statistics are available on the American Diabetes Association Website).

We urge a favorable report on this bill. If you need further information, please contact me at DrElaineCrainNP@gmail.com

Sincerely,

Dr. Elaine Crain, DNP, MSN, RN, FNP

MAAPC Legislative Co-Chair