



“Advocating for NPs in Maryland since 1992”

February 13, 2023

Re: SB 214/HB 278 Health Occupations – Clinical Nurse Specialists

Position: Support

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the over 800 members of the Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland, Inc. (NPAM), and the over 8,000 Nurse Practitioners licensed to practice in Maryland, I am writing in support of **SB 214/HB 278 Health Occupations – Clinical Nurse Specialists**.

This bill would define and clarify the practice of the Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) and authorizes them to prescribe drugs and durable medical equipment under regulations adopted by the State Board of Nursing.

CNSs are advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) who practice at an advanced level of nursing and are an integral part of the health care team. This practice is enhanced through well-grounded knowledge and understanding of advanced pharmacologic principles. In 2010 the Institute of Medicine released the landmark report, “The Future of Nursing”. A key recommendation of that report was to remove legislative and regulatory barriers for all APRNs to allow them to practice to the fullest extent of their education and training and enable them to efficiently provide the care their patients need.

The Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland is in full support of **SB 214/HB 278 Health Occupations – Clinical Nurse Specialists** and we ask that the Committee vote in favor of this bill. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

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