

Testimony for Senate Bill 213

Health Occupations – Clinical Nurse Specialists – Prescribing

Senate Finance Committee

February 14, 2023

Madame Chair Griffith and members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present **Senate Bill 213 – Health Occupations – Clinical Nurse Specialists – Prescribing**. Senate Bill 213 would simply put Clinical Nurse Specialists on equal footing with all other Advance Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) in Maryland who already have prescriptive authority. It would also add Maryland to the 39 other states and the District of Columbia where Clinical Nurse Specialists are already authorized to prescribe.

Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS) are one of four classes of APRNs, the others being nurse practitioners, Nurse midwives, and nurse anesthetists. Clinical nurse specialists are experts in clinical practice, patient education, research, evidence-based practice, consultation, and have a role in the coordination of patient care, nursing, and health care systems. Providing clinical nurse specialists with prescribing authority will expand access to care, both in understaffed hospitals and rural areas lacking sufficient access to care.

A clinical nurse specialist frequently helps bridge the gaps in care, which include making sure the patients have the appropriate medications. Their focus on patient outcomes can assure successful transition out of acute health situations and decrease the chances of re-occurrence, thus saving patients, hospitals, and communities not just money, but also a sense of being cared for. With this bill, I am asking you to allow Clinical Nurse Specialists to be able to practice here in Maryland to full extent of their education and training.

Senate Bill 213 was introduced last year as Senate Bill 513, which passed the full Senate 38-9. Although the bill did not ultimately make it through the House, I am confident this bill will receive favorable consideration by the House this year. It's important that we reinforce our chamber's support for this long overdue bill.

Thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 213 and I respectfully request a favorable report.