

February 22, 2023
Maryland General Assembly
House Health and Government Operations Committee
Chair Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk and Members of the Committee,

AANP appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony on Maryland House Bill 475 (H.B. 475) the **Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact**, for the hearing scheduled for February 22, 2023.

The American Association of Nurse Practitioners® (AANP) is the largest professional membership organization for nurse practitioners (NPs) of all specialties and represents the interests of the more than 325,000 licensed NPs in the United States. Nurse practitioners make up most advanced practice registered nurses (APRN) in the country and nearly one in four NPs in Maryland is an AANP member.

At this time, AANP respectfully requests that the committee hold on advancing House Bill 475 (H.B. 475) and allow the Nursing community the opportunity to work through substantive outstanding issues. AANP believes that a well-formulated APRN Compact holds promise, and that securing those benefits requires broad adoption in states. Unfortunately, the outstanding issues related to licensure eligibility, prescribing, and the structure of the compact administrative process remain in the version before the committee.

These outstanding items not only raise Maryland-specific concerns but have resulted in a significant number of states choosing not to advance this version of the compact. State-level amendments are unable to address these issues and require substantive amendments to the core compact language.

Further, the APRN Compact in H.B. 475 was developed prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and would benefit from a post-public health emergency perspective. Over the last three years, states gained new insights that should be incorporated to better support the APRN workforce and meet the changing needs of the health care system.

Efforts by AANP and the broader advanced practice nursing community continue to work toward resolving these remaining challenges. AANP respectfully requests that this legislation not advance at this time. We look forward to returning with a version that addresses these concerns and has broad nursing community support in a future legislative session.

Respectfully,



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AANP President