

SUPPORT HB 475

Dear Chairman Pena-Melnyk:

I am a licensed APRN in Maryland I support passing SB 475 in 2023 for the following reasons:

- With the current healthcare workforce shortage facing the Maryland Community, the APRN Compact ensures greater access to care particularly in underserved areas where workforce shortages are the most critical.
- **94% of Maryland APRNs who responded to 3 surveys are in favor of adopting the APRN Compact.**
- The APRN Compact supports military spouses moving to Maryland seeking employment as APRNs. Currently, obtaining licensure in Maryland can take up to 6 months of their 2-year tour of duty here.
- Multistate licensure compacts save boards of nursing time and money by ensuring uniform licensure state to state.
- Maryland was the pioneer in enacting the Nurse Licensure Compact. We need to keep Maryland as the leaders in the Nursing Profession by passing this Compact. 3 states have adopted the Compact, and 6 more have introduced legislation in 2023 to adopt the Compact.
- Telehealth has become a mainstay of our healthcare system since the Covid epidemic, and APRNs need licenses in each state where their patients are or reside to provide Telehealth services. The APRN Compact would eliminate the need for multiple licenses.
- This is a voluntary license. APRNs who don't want or need a multistate license do not have to obtain one.
- Participating in the APRN Compact saves APRNs the high cost of being licensed in multiple states.
- The Compact is supported by patients, military families, facilities, and businesses.

This bill is supported by:

- Chesapeake Bay Affiliate of the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
- Maryland Academy of Advanced Practice Clinicians
- Maryland Board of Nursing
- Maryland Organization of Nurse Leaders
- Maryland Hospital Association
- National Council of State Boards of Nursing
- Maryland Association of Nurse Anesthetists

Thank you for your support for SB 475.

Respectfully,

HELEN HANNAH, CRNP

2/20/2023