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Oral Testimony

HB 278

Titled: Clinical Nurse Specialists - Prescribing

Thank you, Delegate Cullison, for sponsoring this bill and thank you Madame Chairs and committee members for allowing time to hear my testimony in support of **HB278 -Clinical Nurse Specialist - Prescribing**. My name is Samantha Young, I am a nationally certified and Maryland licensed Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) and Nurse Practitioner (NP).

I function in my roles as a CNS and NP on different days of the week because these roles may be similar but are very unique in practice. As an NP, I manage a specific cohort of patients by prescribing medications and tests, performing physical exams, and completing patient education.

When working in my role as a CNS I oversee an Intensive Care Unit (ICU) to provides safe, effective, and efficient patient care. I am the clinical expert on best practice. I consult with the healthcare team and am a resource to answer both clinical and policy questions as they relate to nursing practice, patient safety and patient outcomes.

My CNS expertise, skills and education prepares me to assess individual patients, or specialized groups of patients and identify the gaps in health care delivery. A barrier to me providing comprehensive care is the current Maryland law does not allow me the ability to prescribe medication and order durable medical equipment. I assess patients identifying need for Wound Care, Physical therapy, or need for a specialized bed to prevent bed sores for example, yet cannot prescribe these treatments. I must interrupt a physician or NP, to cosign my order, taking them away from their patients to sign an order that I have the education, and expertise but under current Maryland law, cannot order.

The CNS is not a duplicate role to the other Advanced Practice roles. Our foundational education is the same, but each advanced practice nurse provides a unique expertise to the practice of nursing. If I could prescribe as a CNS I could provide efficient, safe, evidence-based quality care without delay. I stand in strong support of this bill and am asking you to vote favorably in support of **HB278**

Thank you.