

SUPPORT

HB 475 Delegate Rosenberg Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact

My name is Daniel Ndamukong and I practice as a Psyche Mental Health Nurse Practitioner.

This bill is a workforce shortage solution!

The Covid crisis showed us that our healthcare providers, particularly nurses and APRNs, needed portability and mobility to rush skilled personnel to the epicenters of the pandemic. The acute phase of the pandemic ae over, but the long-term effects are still with us, including a critical loss of nursing and APRN providers throughout the state.

There are short- and long-term solutions to the severe nursing workforce shortage crisis in Maryland:

HB475/SB439-Advanced Practice Nurse Compact and HB278-Clinical Nurse Specialists— Prescribing are short-term solutions. The APRN Compact can provide greater mobility for APRNs to come to Maryland to work without the cumbersome delay in the licensing process.

The CNS Prescribing bill will allow highly educate APRNs to practice to the full extent of their training and education to provide a safety net to patients in a timely manner. The APRN Compact will mobilize them, and APRNs across the state, and allow for more providers to care for Maryland patients.

HB 1160/SB774-Maryland Pathway to Nursing Program and Advisory Committee— Establishment is a long-term solution.)

Nonetheless, there are strong opponents to this bill who are ignoring the implications of NOT passing the bill.

Opponents of this bill are from one group in Maryland representing only one of four APRN roles—nurse practitioners, and only a fraction of the total NPs in Maryland.

They are supported by a large national association with very deep pockets funding a massive, almost daily advertising campaign in our state to defeat passage of this bill. They are opposing this bill in every state where there is an active local campaign to advance the compact.

Since session last year, proponents of the Compact have mobilized APRNs across the state in support of this bill because it just makes sense for Maryland. This is evidenced by the results of the most recent MBON survey in which 94% of the APRNs who responded are in favor of the Compact. Two other surveys were conducted in 2022 in Maryland showing almost identical results.

Now we find our state is experiencing one of the worst nursing shortages in our history. Making it easier for APRNs to come to Maryland to work just makes sense. Currently, it can take as long

as 6 months for an APRN seeking employment in Maryland from another state. Often, patients experience critical gaps in healthcare because of the delay in the licensing process.

Are we going to allow a national, outside group with NO vested interest in our citizens or our APRN workforce dictate how we govern? Or will we listen to the Maryland Academy of Advanced Practice Clinicians, Maryland Board of Nursing, Chesapeake Bay Affiliate of the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists, the Maryland Association of Nurse Anesthetists, or the Maryland Organization of Nurse Leaders, who are all nursing leaders in our state who support Maryland passing HB 475 to join the APRN Compact?

I ask you for a FAVORABLE report on this bill HB 475, which is so crucial to all APRNs providing care to Marylanders and across state lines.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
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