



## **Oppose: HB475 Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact**

2/20/2023

Maryland House of Representatives  
Health and Government Operations Committee  
Room 241  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Honorable Chair, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the pediatric nurse practitioners (PNPs) and fellow pediatric-focused advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) Chesapeake Chapter, I am writing to express our **Opposition to HB475 Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact**.

In alignment with our national organization's statement, the MD Chesapeake Chapter does not support the proposed version of the APRN compact. We strongly support the concept of an APRN compact to enable advanced practice nurses to provide quality care across state lines.

The inclusion of minimum practice hours as a requirement for a multi state APRN license directly conflicts with the Consensus Model. It conflicts with the evidence APRNs are prepared to safely enter practice after graduation from an accredited program and passage of a national certification board examination. The minimum practice hour requirement hinders care access, increases health care costs, and does not improve patient outcomes. Conversely, removing APRN practice barriers like this could help increase health care access in underserved areas across the state, thereby improving health outcomes.

We also do not support the bill as it fails to specifically include an APRN advisory committee to counsel Compact Administrators which is detrimental to advanced practice nursing as a profession. The perspectives and expertise of APRNs are essential to support and assist administrative entities governing the regulation of advanced nursing practice.

The COVID19 public health pandemic has exposed oppressive barriers created by arbitrary inconsistencies and unnecessary restrictions in APRN licensure. We realize the urgent need for APRN compact licensure but cannot support this version with the current requirements minimum practice hour and specific language stating an APRN will be on the advisory committee. The bill must be voted on as is. This version of the compact cannot be modified or amended. Adding enabled language will not address these concerns.

For these reasons the Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP extends their **Opposition to HB475 Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact**.

The pediatric advanced practice nurses of your state are grateful to you for your attention to these crucial issues. The members of Chesapeake Chapter of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners are committed to improving the health and advocating for Maryland's pediatric patients. If



we can be of any further assistance, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Lindsay J. Ward , the Chesapeake Chapter President at 410-507-3642 or lindsayjward@hotmail.com.

Sincerely,

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