

# MedChi

*The Maryland State Medical Society*

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TO: The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair  
Members, Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
The Honorable Adelaide C. Eckardt

FROM: J. Steven Wise  
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
Danna L. Kauffman  
Christine K. Krone

DATE: February 10, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – Senate Bill 154 – *Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact*

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The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports with amendment** Senate Bill 154.

Senate Bill 154 creates a compact for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN), which include Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists, Nurse Midwives, Certified Nurse Specialists, and Nurse Practitioners (NPs). MedChi supports the use of compacts among health care professions as they ensure licensure in the State where the patient is located, but also simplify the licensure process for those who wish to be licensed in multiple states.

One issue with the adoption of compacts is that the law contained in the compact may run counter to existing State law, as is found here. Existing Maryland law requires that Nurse Practitioners “Consult and collaborate with, or refer an individual to, an appropriate licensed physician or any other health care provider as needed.” HO §8-101(m). However, the Compact overrides this provision, stating instead that “an APRN issued a multistate license is authorized to assume responsibility and accountability for patient care independent of any supervisory or collaborative relationship.” To the extent the two provisions are in conflict, they should be harmonized.

It may be that this language of the Compact is intended to waive off only formalized supervisory or collaborate written agreements between an NP and a physician, and not the general obligation to collaborate and refer patients. If that is the case, the following amendment does not disturb the Compact but makes clear its intent: On Page 9 at line 15, after “relationship” insert “; provided however, that this still requires an APRN to collaborate with and refer patients to an appropriate licensed physician or any other health care provider as needed.”

With this clarifying amendment, MedChi supports Senate Bill 154.

**For more information call:**

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