

February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022

To: Maryland General Assembly  
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
Senator Paul G. Pinsky, Chair, and Members of the Committee  
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Pinsky and Members of the Committee,

AANP appreciates the opportunity to submit written comments on Senate Bill 154, **the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact**, currently under consideration by the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee during the public comment period available for the hearing scheduled for Thursday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

The American Association of Nurse Practitioners® (AANP) is the largest professional membership organization for nurse practitioners (NPs) of all specialties and represents the interests of the more than 325,000 licensed NPs in the United States. Nurse practitioners make up the majority of advanced practice registered nurses (APRN) in the country and NPs account for 84% of Maryland's licensed APRN workforce.<sup>1</sup> AANP Maryland members comprise nearly one-third of Maryland's entire NP workforce.

**AANP does not support Senate Bill 154 (S.B. 154) as it is introduced and stands with our colleagues of the Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland to respectfully request that the General Assembly not advance S.B. 154 at this time.**

In the past, AANP has supported the concept of licensure compacts as a method to facilitate cross-state care and promote greater development of the workforce. In August of 2020, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) adopted a revised version of the APRN Compact. Those changes were opposed by AANP and more than 40 nursing organizations around the country. That version of the compact is now before the legislature as Senate Bill 154.

Efforts by AANP and the broader advanced practice nursing community to resolve outstanding issues with the language of this APRN Compact are still ongoing.

**Maryland will not miss out on any benefits by holding on advancing S.B. 154 this session and allowing stakeholders to return with a revised, broadly supported APRN Compact.**

- A multistate APRN Compact is not currently active or in effect. Maryland passage of S.B. 154 in 2022 will not result in any workforce changes this year.

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<sup>1</sup> Maryland Board of Nursing, Fiscal Year 2021, Legislative Report



- Seven states must adopt the language into their state law before the Compact would take effect. So far, only two states have adopted this version of the Compact, while several others have rejected the proposal from their legislative agenda in 2022 in order to allow more time for the Nursing community to develop more broadly supported language.
- The benefits of a licensure compact for Maryland depends on broad adoption in other states. The previous two versions of the APRN Compact failed to gain adequate support to meet the threshold of 10 states required for activation. Please allow us to keep working and bring back a version with the wider support needed across the country that can deliver real workforce benefits for Maryland.

**The APRN Compact requires changes to core elements that state-level amendments are unable to address.**

- Compacts require that states must agree uniformly on the compact provisions and standard language.
- The [outstanding issues](#) of concern to the Nursing community related to licensure eligibility criteria, prescribing, and structure of the compact administrative process will require a change to the core compact provisions.
- State-level amendments to this bill are unable to address these core provisions of the shared language and still participate in the current compact.

**The APRN Compact in S.B. 154 was developed prior to lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic.**

- Over the last two years, many states have suspended unnecessary licensure barriers to better utilize their APRN workforce to meet the needs of patients and increased demand on public health systems.
- Now that states have test-driven these policies, many are looking to retain this flexibility and make it easier for APRNs to serve patients across state lines. This proposed APRN Compact would benefit from a revision by the Nursing community with a post-pandemic lens.

For these reasons, AANP respectfully requests that this legislation not advance at this time.

Respectfully,  
April N. Kapu, DNP, APRN, ACNP-BC, FAANP, FCCM, FAAN  
AANP President