



**DATE:** February 10, 2022      **COMMITTEE:** Education, Health and Environmental Affairs  
**BILL NO:** Senate Bill 154  
**BILL TITLE:** Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact  
**POSITION:** Support

**Kennedy Krieger Institute supports Senate Bill 154 - Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact.**

**Bill Summary:**

Senate Bill 154 creates an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact, to be enacted when six other states have also passed legislation substantially similar to this Act.

**Background:**

Kennedy Krieger Institute provides specialized services to patients nationally and internationally. Kennedy Krieger Institute is dedicated to improving the lives of children and young adults with developmental, behavioral, cognitive and physical challenges. Kennedy Krieger's services include inpatient, outpatient, school-based and community-based programs. The specialized care and resources that we provide is often not available to patients in their home states. Telehealth makes it possible for our providers to see patients in their home states, but barriers with licensure and regulations cause significant delays and sometimes, an inability to provide the specialized care.

**Rationale:**

An interstate compact will allow a formal and legal relationship amongst states that promote a common agenda, to improve the health, wellbeing, and lives of the patients and families that we serve so they can live their lives to the fullest. An interstate compact will allow families across participating states to have access to the highest quality of medical care while also decreasing the burdens placed on the patient, family, and the healthcare system.

Additionally, when Advanced Practice Nurses relocate they are required to apply for a license in the new state of residence. This requirement can often lead to a delay in the ability to obtain credentialing, and thus a delay in patient care.

According to the American Medical Colleges (AAMC), a shortage of 105,000 providers is expected by 2030. Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Practitioners are certified in pediatrics, family, gerontology and psychiatry. A compact would allow these professionals to seamlessly provide continuity of care across state lines.

Though the need for an interstate compact has existed for many years, the COVID-19 pandemic has pushed this need to the forefront. Telehealth allows increased access to quality care with a potential that cannot be fully realized with the current absence of an interstate licensure compact. As states begin to modify their telehealth waivers and remove their expedited licensure policies put into place due to the pandemic, access to care and continuity of care will be restricted and as a result, the full potential of those who need specialized services will not be realized.

**Kennedy Krieger Institute requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 154.**