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SB 154 Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact
FAVORABLE
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
February 10, 2022

Good afternoon Chair Pinsky and members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee. I am Tammy Bresnahan, Director of Advocacy for AARP Maryland. Our nation faces pressing health care challenges—an aging and more diverse population, more people with more chronic conditions, millions more uninsured, rising costs, and a shortage of providers. We can help address some of these challenges by maximizing the use of advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) to tackle health care challenges in access, quality, and cost. That is why AARP Maryland supports **Senate Bill 154**, which would include Maryland in the interstate Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Licensure Compact (APRN Compact). We thank Senator Eckardt for sponsoring this legislation and supporting nurses.

The APRN Compact would streamline access and provide additional choices to patients and families by cutting red tape so APRNs can more easily deliver care across state lines. The APRN Compact also promotes safety and quality. It codifies uniform standards, ensures that states have the authority to enforce public protection at the state level, and makes it easier to exchange information among member states when issues arise.

AARP Maryland believes enactment of the APRN Compact will enhance and improve health care access in communities across Maryland, supporting patients and the nearly 730,000 family caregivers that help keep their loved ones safe and independent in the community. The APRN Compact is also a commonsense way to facilitate greater health care options making it easier for patients to receive care when and where they need it.

Health care provider shortages hits older residents hard. Older adults sometimes lack the ability or resources to get to their appointments because of mobility issues, long travel distances to a provider, and wait times for appointments. This risks their health and adds unnecessary stress to family caregivers. Once implemented,¹ the APRN Compact would encourage APRNs to provide care both in-person or through telehealth technologies in multiple states, connecting patients and their family caregivers with qualified primary care. APRNs are a highly valued and integral part of the health care system and a crucial source of support for family caregivers. They are

¹ The APRN Compact was adopted on August 12, 2020 by the [National Council of State Boards of Nursing](#). It has developed model language for states to enact the APRN Compact. The APRN Compact will be implemented once seven states enact the APRN Compact. North Dakota and Delaware have passed the Compact. Legislation is Pending in Utah and Maryland.

registered nurses with a masters or doctoral level education trained to provide advanced health care services, including primary and preventative care.

Moreover, the APRN Compact can help residents quickly access lifesaving services during natural disasters, weather emergencies, or a public health crisis. As the COVID-19 pandemic has illustrated, there is a need for state-based APRN license portability during a health care crisis to help states secure surge capacity and save lives when local needs exceed local health care supply. Our participation in the APRN Compact would complement Maryland's participation in the enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact and allow patients to benefit fully from the array of services APRNs could provide across state lines.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on SB 154 and ask for your support. We believe this policy change will improve patient access to care, facilitate expanded opportunities for telehealth, improve health outcomes, and reduce costs. We ask the Committee for a favorable report on SB 154. If you questions or need further information, please call Tammy Bresnahan at 410-302-8451 or email her at tbresnahan@arp.org.