



Board Member at Large: Gena Stiver Stanek, MS, RN, APRN-CNS, CNS-BC

Written Testimony of Support

Senate Bill 513 Clinical Nurse Specialist – Prescribing Authority

February 3, 2022

I am writing in support of Senate Bill – 513. I've been a Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) (an Advanced Practice Nurse like a Nurse Practitioner or Nurse Anesthetist) for over 36 years, 27 of which were at the University of Maryland Medical Center, R. Adams Shock Trauma Center. I currently work in the office of Clinical Practice Professional Development at University of Maryland Medical Center, Baltimore, Maryland and have so for the last 8 years.

I am writing as a board member at large of [The Chesapeake Bay Affiliate of the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists \(CBANACNS\) | ENP Network](#).

A clinical nurse specialist is an advanced practice registered nurse who is prepared at either the Masters level or Doctorate level. We are experts in clinical practice, patient education, improving practice to be in line with the latest research, etc.. We also have patient care related responsibilities supporting the frontline nurses as they care for patients. Our graduate education has the same pharmacology and prescriptive components as our Nurse Practitioner (NP) colleagues as well as other courses unique to the CNS role.

There have been many times when prescriptive authority would have been helpful in expediting care. For example, when I work with frontline nursing staff and a patient has a skin problem, wound care need or a special bed to prevent skin problems, I must go to another advanced practice nurse (Nurse Practitioner) or a physician to write that order. Similarly, if a patient needs a walker to go home or another piece of medical equipment or a device I might need to interrupt a busy surgeon who may be in the operating room to obtain the prescription when I have the education, skill and knowledge to prescribe it efficiently. This can delay a discharge and tie up a bed preventing an ER patient from getting moved to an inpatient room. Coordination of care and expertise are needed to give our patients the best possible care and is essential now more than ever.

Allowing Advanced Practice Registered nurses to practice to the full extent of their education and preparation is critical to meeting the Institute of Medicine's 2020 Future of Nursing Recommendations "to remove barriers to practice and care".

We are looking to this committee to pass this bill which will help improve patient outcomes and care coordination. Please feel free to reach out if I can assist in any way at gstanek1@verizon.net or gstanek@umm.edu

I plan to attach the below:

- A CNS fact sheet with the importance of the Clinical Nurse Specialist Role related to prescriptive authority
 - Note: QR Code in left lower corner of the fact sheet takes you to pertinent supporting documents and real stories told by Maryland CNSs.

Thank you in advance for your support and interest in healthcare improvements.

Sincerely,

Gena Stiver Stanek, MS, RN, APRN-CNS, CNS-BC
Board Member at Large CBANACNS