

February 10, 2022

The Honorable Senator Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Cmte.
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Senator Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice Chair
Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Cmte.
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Support of: Senate Bill 154- APRN Compact

Dear Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and Distinguished Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee:

On behalf of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, I am writing to express our support for Senate Bill 154, a bill to enter Maryland into the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Compact.

The APRN Compact allows an APRN (certified nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse midwives, and certified registered nurse anesthetists) to have one multistate license and use that license to practice as an APRN in any compact state. This is not a new concept for Maryland. The APRN Compact is modeled after the Nurse Licensure Compact, a compact for registered nurses and licensed practical nurses that Maryland has been a member of for over twenty years.

For regulators, the compact simultaneously creates a path for cross-border mobility while licensure and discipline remain with Maryland. The APRN Compact Commission will be composed of the heads of state boards of nursing from each participating state, and the Commission's powers are limited to administration of the compact. The Commission has no power over nursing practice or licensing standards in the party states, as that power remains solely with that state's legislature and regulatory processes.

For practitioners, this added mobility will reduce the burden on APRNs already practicing across state lines, eliminating the need to maintain multiple state licenses. The APRN Compact will expand opportunities for all APRNs to practice in the rapidly growing telehealth industry, unlocking access to care in underserved areas.

For military families, who relocate across the country often, interstate compacts reduce barriers to employment upon numerous relocations. A military family member who is an APRN must apply for licensure before working, a process that takes time and effort which adds unnecessary stress and financial strain on the family.

The APRN Compact was introduced in states for the first time in 2021 and during the 2021 session both Delaware and North Dakota enacted the APRN Compact. The compact requires seven state enactments to go into effect. Maryland has an opportunity to pioneer licensure mobility and increased access to care through adoption of the APRN Compact, just as it did over twenty years ago as the first state to enact the Nurse Licensure Compact.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Livanos". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nicole" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Livanos".

Nicole Livanos, JD MPP
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