



The Maryland State Medical Society

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TO: The Honorable Melony Griffith, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Antonio Hayes

FROM: J. Steven Wise
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DATE: February 28, 2023

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – Senate Bill 439 – *Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact*

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports with amendment** Senate Bill 439.

Senate Bill 439 creates a compact for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN), which include Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists, Nurse Midwives, Certified Nurse Specialists, and Nurse Practitioners (NPs). MedChi supports the use of compacts among health care professions as they ensure licensure in the State where the patient is located, but also simplify the licensure process for those who wish to be licensed in multiple states.

One issue with the adoption of compacts is that the law contained in the compact may run counter to existing State law. Existing Maryland law requires that Nurse Practitioners “Consult and collaborate with, or refer an individual to, an appropriate licensed physician or any other health care provider as needed.” HO §8-101(m). However, the Compact contains a conflicting provision stating that “an APRN issued a multistate license is authorized to assume responsibility and accountability for patient care independent of any supervisory or collaborative relationship.”

MedChi raised this issue in 2022 when the legislation was introduced as Senate Bill 154. Since then, further language has been added attempting to harmonize the standard language of the Compact with existing Maryland law: “...a multistate licensee shall continue collaborating with health care providers as necessary for patient care, including through consultation, referral and communication between health care providers.” Page 9 at line 18. While this language is an improvement, we think the better course is to simply repeat what is already in Maryland law so as to not create any confusion. We would request, as we did in 2022, that the language in the bill be stricken and replaced with: “; provided however, that this still requires an APRN to collaborate with and refer patients to an appropriate licensed physician or any other health care provider as needed.”

With this clarifying amendment, MedChi does not object to Senate Bill 439.