

Support

SB 439

Titled: Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact

Thank you, Senator Hayes, for your generous sponsorship and thank you Madam Chair, Vice-Chair, and committee members for considering SB 439 Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact. The Chesapeake Bay Affiliate of the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists (CBA-NACNS) is in support of the Maryland APRN Compact bill. Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNSs) have a unique advanced practice role in that they provide care across the health system continuum with a focus on direct patient care, evidence- and research-based practice, and optimal patient outcomes.

As an APRN, the idea of a nurse compact is not unheard of, in fact Maryland is part of the registered nurse licensure compact. This compact enables nurses to practice and teach in their primary state of residence and in other compact states without having to obtain an additional license as requirements for practice are the same in all compact states.

An interstate compact can be found in several other healthcare disciplines including physical therapy, occupational therapy, psychology, and medicine. The compact reduces barrier to practice making it easier for patients to receive continuity of care if traveling across state lines for services.

During the COVID pandemic, the use of telemedicine highlighted the need for an APRN compact license. Patients were often transported to centers where they could receive a higher level of care. After discharge, patients would return to their home state and carry the burden of finding a provider. The APRN compact licensure would allow the APRN greater mobility across state lines physically and via telehealth, improve continuity of care, streamline credentialing and licensing process, lessen undue licensure burdens and delays making Maryland more attractive for APRNs to relocate and decrease a shortage of available advanced practice providers.

The proposed APRN compact legislation currently requires a 2,080 hours practice requirement. This requirement is not a requirement to practice, rather a requirement to practice across state lines. It is a uniform licensure requirement that must be met in order to add the multistate privilege component to one's license.

Approximately 90% of current Maryland APRN licenses would already meet the 2,080 hours requirement upon initiation of an APRN compact. The Chesapeake Bay Affiliate recognizes the added value of adopting an APRN compact and support making the APRN compact a reality in Maryland.

Respectfully,

CBA-NACNS Board of Directors