

Letter of Support

Title: HB 278: Health Occupations - Clinical Nurse Specialists – Prescribing

Bill sponsor: Bonnie Cullison

Chair: Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk

February 8, 2023

The National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists (NACNS) **SUPPORTS:**

Title: SB 213: Health Occupations - Clinical Nurse Specialists – Prescribing

Title: HB 278: Health Occupations - Clinical Nurse Specialists – Prescribing.

Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNSs) are advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) who practice at an advanced level of nursing. This practice is enhanced through well-grounded knowledge and understanding of advanced pharmacologic principles (NACNS, 2021). NACNS (2019) supports autonomous prescribing of “medications, therapeutics, diagnostic studies, equipment, and procedures to manage the health issues of patients.” (pg. 26).

“The CNS provides advanced direct care to complex and vulnerable populations in a variety of health care settings” (NACNS, 2021). CNSs need prescriptive authority in order to provide comprehensive and safe patient care. NACNS endorses prescribing and ordering privileges be granted by State Boards of Nursing and/or health care systems for CNS practice (NACNS, 2021).

As the national organization for Clinical Nurse Specialists, we urge you to vote favorably on HB 278.

Sincerely,



Phyllis Whitehead, PhD, APRN/CNS, ACHPN, PMGT-BC, FNAP, FAAN

President, NACNS

11130 Sunrise Valley Dr. #350

Reston, VA 20191

Office: 703-436-0092

pwhitehead@nacns.org

president@nacns.org

<https://nacns.org>



References:

National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists. (2019). *Statement on Clinical Nurse Specialist Practice and Education* (3rd ed.). Author.

National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists. (2021). *2021 National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists' Position Statement on Prescribing for the Clinical Nurse Specialist*. <https://nacns.org/advocacy-policy/position-statements/national-association-of-clinical-nurse-specialists-position-statement-on-prescriptive-privilege-for-the-clinical-nurse-specialist/>