



Maryland Community Health System

Committee:	Senate Finance Committee
Bill Number:	SB 359 - Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact
Hearing Date:	February 13, 2024
Position:	Support

The Maryland Community Health System (MCHS) supports *Senate Bill 359 - Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact*. The bill would enter Maryland into the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Compact.

The Maryland Community Health System is a network of federally qualified health centers located across Maryland. We provide somatic, behavioral, and oral health care to underserved communities. All of our health centers are in health professional shortage areas, and we are facing increasing difficulty in recruiting primary care providers. Through the APRN Compact, we would widen the pool of nurse practitioners and nurse midwives who would be available to provide primary care and pregnancy services in our health centers.

MCHS recently served on two state workgroups that demonstrate the stark need for licensure reciprocity initiatives such as the APRN Compact:

- **Expansion of Interstate Telehealth:** The Maryland Health Care Commission convened stakeholders to advise them on this study to increase the availability of interstate telehealth to meet the growing health needs of Marylanders. The study strongly endorsed licensure compacts as an avenue to increase the number of licensed and qualified practitioners who can provide services to Marylandersⁱ:
- **Primary Care Workgroup:** The Primary Care Workgroup recommended investments in primary care to support the sustainability of services across Maryland. It is notable that the Workgroup specifically recognized the importance of nurse practitioners and nurse midwives in providing access to primary care.ⁱⁱ

MCHS supports this bill because it will improve access to care for Marylanders. We request a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

ⁱ https://mhcc.maryland.gov/mhcc/pages/home/workgroups/documents/ist/IST_HGO_rpt.pdf

ⁱⁱ https://mhcc.maryland.gov/mhcc/pages/home/workgroups/documents/pew/pci_wrkgrp_rpt.pdf