

SUPPORT
SB 359 Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact

February 13, 2024

The Maryland Academy of Advanced Practice Clinicians (MAAPC) supports passage of SB 359 Senator Hayes Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact.

I am Marie Tarleton, Certified Family Nurse Practitioner practicing in Maryland more than 20 years and President of MAAPC. MAAPC is a large statewide organization representing all 4 groups of APRNs—CRNAs, NPs, CNSs, and CNMs. We were founded to give all APRNs a voice in Maryland. We have over 3000 members and followers who rely upon us to represent the APRN groups who are sometimes left out of discussions about legislation.

MAAPC has worked with all the groups of APRNs and the MBON for the past 3 years to ensure we are truly representing the wishes of all APRNs.

NPs comprise the largest group of APRNs and often have a louder voice in legislation than the other APRNs. Nonetheless, it is important to hear all the voices.

This bill has many benefits for the residents of Maryland, many of which have become apparent in our current triple healthcare crisis in Maryland—the opioid crisis, the long-term effects from the Covid pandemic, and the severe nursing workforce shortage.

Some benefits of the Compact Licensure:

- The Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) has greater mobility across state lines physically and via telehealth.
- Improves the continuity of care for patients.
- Ensures the qualifications of the practitioners meet national standards.
- Streamlined credentialing and licensing process.
- Lessens undue licensure burdens and delays making Maryland more attractive for nurses to relocate here.
- This compact agreement aids military families during their relocation processes.
- Allows for qualified APRNs to fill emergent needs during times of disasters, short staffing, and in underserved rural areas.

During the pandemic while seeing most patients via telehealth, it became apparent to us as healthcare providers, that we need Compact licensure to serve our patients who live or work in another state and seek care with us in Maryland. We had to turn many patients away because they were physically located in another state at the time of their telehealth appointments causing them a delay in needed care and the burden of finding a new provider during a pandemic. That has not changed in our post pandemic world where patients left with lingering effects of the pandemic still require more accessible and flexible care.

Remember, this is a voluntary license! APRNs who don't want this multistate license do not have to obtain one. Please allow the APRNs who *DO* want a multistate license the opportunity to obtain one.

I ask for a favorable report on SB 359.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
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President, MAAPC
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