

Support SB 359 Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact

January 31, 2024

My name is Rachel Sherman, and I have over ten years of nursing experience. I have practiced across various settings, including hospitals, long-term care facilities, public and private medical clinics, hospices, and home health. I am licensed as a family nurse practitioner in Maryland, Washington DC, and Virginia. I am a member of the Maryland Academy of Advanced Practice Clinicians (MAAPC), the Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland (NPAM), and the Maryland Nurses Association (MNA). I was recently appointed as an advanced practice member of the Maryland Board of Nursing.

I am writing to support SB 359 and appreciate the opportunity to provide written testimony.

1. SB 359 positions Maryland ahead of the next healthcare crisis. As demonstrated through the COVID-19 pandemic, critical shortages of healthcare providers can have devastating implications across the various communities you represent. This bill will support the healthcare workforce should the need arise to recruit and employ Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) quickly. This bill also aids military families experiencing relocation.
2. SB 359 will help to reduce the financial burden experienced due to having multiple individual state licenses. This will also make Maryland more attractive to APRNs who desire to live or practice in the state, strengthening our nursing workforce.
3. SB 359 does not prevent APRNs with less than 2080 clinical practice hours from obtaining licensure in other states. They would simply have to apply for an individual state license until they have met the compact requirements. This supports a general standard of practice across the multiple states that wish to adopt the compact. Maryland regulations require new-to-practice APRNs to maintain an informal mentorship agreement for 18 months. The APRN compact requires less than 18 months of clinical experience.
4. SB 359 supports patients who seek medical care in Maryland but live in another state. With the expansion of telehealth services, this bill will help continuity of care and promote improved health outcomes.

In 2022, the Maryland Board of Nursing and the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) conducted a survey seeking feedback regarding the support or opposition of Maryland joining the APRN compact. 94% of respondents were in favor of adopting the compact. Your constituents have spoken loudly and clearly; they want this bill passed. This goes beyond nursing organizations giving their opinion. This concerns your constituents and what is best for

those seeking medical care in Maryland. I look forward to a favorable report.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this significant issue.

Kindest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RS' with a stylized flourish.

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