



Statement of Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA)

To the Senate Finance Committee

Chair: Senator Pamela Beidle

February 12, 2024

Senate Bill 0359: Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and members of the committee, the Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA) is in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 0359: Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact

Advance Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) are essential in the delivery of quality healthcare to all populations. The American Association of Nurse Practitioners discussed the reproducibility of patient satisfaction regarding APRNs across numerous studies. Utilizing APRNs resulted in lower costs of care, more time spent with patients, fewer hospitalizations, and fewer primary care visits up to two years past the initial consultation in comparison to physicians (2023). With the extensive nursing background that APRNs possess, they are able to create trusting relationships with their patients as they care for them. In-depth patient education is another service APRNs are also known for, which increases health literacy of patients and can empower patients with the knowledge and confidence to take control of their health. While APRNs provide exceptional care for patients, they also reduce the burden of high patient loads among providers. Reducing burden on providers allows them to provide quality care. With these reasons, the Maryland Rural Health Association strongly supports SB0359. Looking at other professions who use the compact licensure process, states who use compact licensure have seen a 10% to 15% increase in licensed and practicing professionals. Areas that benefited the most from compact licensure were rural areas and underserved communities (Nguyen & Schaler-Haynes, 2023). Passing SB0359 will allow incoming APRNs who seek to practice in Maryland a convenient and faster process to obtain licensure and will be able to serve Maryland communities in a timely fashion. The convenience compact licensure offers will also draw APRNs to Maryland, which will result in the further reduction of burden on providers and increase the number of Maryland residents who have affordable access to quality healthcare.

*On behalf of the Maryland Rural Health Association,
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American Association of Nurse Practitioners. (2023). *Quality of nurse practitioner practice*.

<https://www.aanp.org/advocacy/advocacy-resource/position-statements/quality-of-nurse-practitioner-practice#:~:text=Four%20studies%20found%20higher%20patient,years%20after%20an%20initial%20consultation.>