

Support
SB 359

Titled: Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact

The Maryland Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists (MACNS) is in support of the Maryland APRN Compact bill. Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNSs) have a unique advanced practice role in that they provide care across the illness to wellness continuum with a focus on direct patient care, evidence- and research-based practice, and optimal patient outcomes.

As an APRN, the idea of a nurse compact is not unheard of, in fact, Maryland was the first state to join the registered nurse licensure compact 25 years ago. This compact enables nurses to practice and teach in their primary state of residence and in other compact states without having to obtain an additional license.

An interstate compact can be found in several other healthcare disciplines including physical therapy, occupational therapy, psychology, and medicine. The compact reduces barriers to practice, making it easier for patients to receive continuity of care if traveling across state lines for services.

During the COVID pandemic, the use of telemedicine highlighted the need for an APRN compact license. Patients were often transported to centers where they could receive a higher level of care. After discharge, patients would return to their home state and carry the burden of finding a provider. Clinical Nurse Specialists are acutely aware of the widening gaps in our healthcare workforce occurring since the COVID pandemic. There is a need to grow a stronger, safer, and more dynamic healthcare workforce. In addition to increasing access to telehealth services, the APRN Compact provides other benefits such as making Maryland better prepared for natural disasters and supporting Maryland military families through providing a modern licensure solution for healthcare providers. Passage of SB 359 will open Maryland to a national network of safe, vetted, and highly trained healthcare professionals ready to help residents at a moment's notice.

SB 359 will help bring Maryland into the 21st century when it comes to licensure mobility, advanced practice provider recruitment, and supporting the very best healthcare professionals to care for the citizens of Maryland.

Therefore, we respectfully ask you to support the passage of SB 359
Thank you,

Maryland Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
Board of Directors