

## **OPPOSE HB 425 Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact**

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice chair Cullison, and members of the House HGO Committee,

My name is Kathy Ware, I am a nurse practitioner living in Anne Arundel County. I am a member of the Maryland Medical Reserve Corp and also a member of the Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland (NPAM) Legislative Committee. I am writing today in **opposition to HB 425 Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact**.

As a nurse practitioner, I am well aware of the nursing workforce shortages in Maryland. This bill in its current form is **NOT** a viable strategy to solve the problem.

The bill language is flawed in many ways including that **it does NOT have APRN representation on the Interstate Commission** which oversees administration of the Compact including rule-making and judicial matters for member states.

We therefore have a compact for an advanced practice registered nurse **but no seat at the table** for an advanced practice registered nurse. It is essential that APRNs be included on any administrative Commission, otherwise decision-makers without first-hand knowledge or experience are making decisions for us.

The inclusion of members of all professions on a body governing their work is crucial to achieving excellence and ensuring public safety. To put this into perspective, exclusion of APRNs on the Interstate Commission would be akin to the Maryland State Bar Association Board of Governors NOT including attorneys.

A well constructed Compact could enhance licensure uniformity and portability across state lines to increase the APRN workforce and therefore improve access to care for Marylanders which they very much deserve. **NPAM supports license portability. Unfortunately, this Compact is NOT well constructed and actually creates barriers to APRN practice across state lines.**

We remain hopeful that NCSBN will hear our concerns and welcome us to the table to find a Compact we can introduce next session that fits the needs of all APRNs and those we care for. **Until then, I can not support this Compact and I ask for an unfavorable report on HB 425.**

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Kathy Ware, RN, MSN, CRNP

Nurse practitioner

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