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To: Members of the HGO Committee

RE: HB 425 - Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact

Position: OPPOSE

Madame Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing today in opposition to **HB 425 – Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact**. I have been a Nurse Practitioner since 2001, living and working in Maryland. I have spent my professional career teaching the next generation of nurses, working as a Nurse Practitioner (NP) in a multi-specialty physician owned practice, as the owner of a practice specializing in sleep medicine, and working as the Executive Director of the Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland (NPAM) until 2023.

I have been proud to be able to work as a NP in Maryland where NPs enjoy full prescriptive authority, and can practice autonomously. Not every state offers this to NPs, and for that reason, I have chosen to practice in Maryland. I believe **HB 425 – Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact** will take NPs and other APRNs a step backward.

Compacts are intended to make practicing in one’s home state and elsewhere, easier. However, **HB 425 - Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Compact** creates unnecessary burdens.

- The inclusion of 2,080 practice hours as a pre-requisite for a multistate APRN Compact license is contrary to evidence that supports that APRNs are safe to practice following graduation. It is crucial to allow NP graduates who have successfully passed the certification exam to enter the workforce. Not allowing them to do so seems contrary to increasing access to care when we have a severe shortage of healthcare providers.
- The governing body for the Compact will not necessarily include NPs. It is vitally important that the APRN Compact Administrators know and understand the practice of those they govern.
- The Compact does not address the ability of NPs to prescribe controlled substances in other Compact states. In Maryland, NPs can prescribe Schedule II through IV drugs. This ability would not be reciprocated in other states that restrict the scope of practice and prescriptive authority of NPs.

- It is unclear how this Compact will fiscally and administratively impact the Maryland Board of Nursing (MBON). Licensure fees will certainly increase, as will the administrative burden of the MBON, which is already over-burdened. Many NPs and other APRNs have experienced long licensure and licensure renewal wait times, and there is an extreme number of outstanding investigations. According to the MBON FY 2023 report there are 6,269 outstanding investigations.

While I generally support the concept of a APRN Compact to give NPs and other APRNs the ability to practice across state lines, and to bolster the workforce, I cannot support this flawed piece of legislation, which cannot be altered to address the concerns cited here. Therefore, I respectfully request an **unfavorable report on HB 425**.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Beverly Lang MScN, RN, ANP-BC, FAANP