

February 2, 2024

Maryland General Assembly
House Health and Government Operations Committee
Chair Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk and Members of the Committee,

AANP appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony on Maryland House Bill 425 (H.B. 425) the **Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact**, for the hearing scheduled for **February 06, 2024**. The American Association of Nurse Practitioners® (AANP) is the largest membership organization for nurse practitioners (NPs) and represents the interests of the more than 325,000 licensed NPs in the United States. Nurse practitioners are the largest group of advanced practice registered nurses (APRN), and one in four NPs in Maryland is an AANP member.

AANP respectfully requests that the committee hold on advancing House Bill 425 (H.B. 425) and allow the Nursing community the opportunity to work through substantive outstanding issues. AANP believes that a well-formulated APRN Compact holds promise. Unfortunately, the APRN Compact in House Bill 425 retains serious unresolved issues related to APRN licensure eligibility, prescribing, and guaranteed adequate representation of state APRN voices on the compact administrative body. Further, this compact language pre-dates the COVID-19 pandemic and has not been updated to incorporate valuable insights gained about cross-state licensure over the past four years.

Maryland will not miss out by not advancing this legislation. The APRN Compact is not currently active, and broad adoption by other states is necessary for Maryland to benefit. In 2023, this APRN Compact failed to be enacted in all seven states it was introduced, including Arizona, Hawaii, Kentucky, New York, Montana, Maryland, and Texas. Multiple other states are not considering this version of the APRN Compact over the same concerns.

State-level amendments are unable to address the challenges with the core compact provisions and these must be revised outside the legislative process. We ask for the Maryland legislature's continued support of the advanced practice nursing community as we actively work to secure meaningful revisions that can gain the necessary, broad support from the Nursing community and states across the country.

At AANP, we know that Maryland NPs and patients need solutions that take effect *now* to meet the health care demands of the state. That is why the Association supports other avenues, such as state licensing reciprocity in Maryland Senate Bill 221 as well as enhanced expedited licensure bills in other states this session. These offer effective solutions while the Nursing community continues our efforts to revise the APRN Compact and bring meaningful value to Maryland.

Thank you for supporting nursing in our efforts to get the compact right before we get it going. We look forward to continued dialogue with the legislature on these and other opportunities to advance our shared goal of improving health care in Maryland. Should you have comments or questions, please contact our VP of State Government Affairs at tkopanos@aanp.org or 512-492-5451.

Sincerely,



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President, American Association of Nurse Practitioners