



“Advocating for NPs since 1992”

Bill: HB 425 – Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact

Position: OPPOSE

The Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland (NPAM) is the only organization solely representing nurse practitioners, the largest subset of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) in Maryland.

NPAM has many concerns regarding HB 425, the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact. This legislation, with its unchangeable language, practice restrictions, and lack of APRN representation, has inherent flaws that adversely impact both patients and nurse practitioners in Maryland.

The language of the bill cannot be altered and any amendments MUST be changed in ALL states that are part of the compact:

The compact does not go into effect until all seven states pass this same bill with the exact same language. This is the third iteration of this bill brought before the Maryland legislature and it has failed to pass every time. Just last year, this identical language was proposed in seven states and none of those states chose to adopt it.

One of the many reasons there has not been overwhelming support for this bill in Maryland and in other states is the compact cannot be altered unilaterally. Any and all changes MUST be enacted into the laws of ALL party states. Consequently, if this bill does pass and Maryland brings forth proposed changes (*a pass it now, fix it later approach*), there is no mandate requiring the other six states to introduce the amendments to their legislatures. They simply could choose not to introduce the amendments and they would not go into effect in any of the other states.

Our objection primarily stems from being confined to immutable language within a bill that, in the swiftly evolving landscape of healthcare, proves antiquated and fails to yield any discernible benefits for the people of Maryland.

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Restricts the practice of nurse practitioners in Maryland:

The arbitrary 2080 practice hour requirement (that is not based in any evidence) creates an unnecessary burden on nurse practitioners and patients' access to care. A new nurse practitioner would need to wait one year before joining the compact. Other compacts, like the RN Compact, allows nurses to enter the compact and practice on day one, not waiting a whole year like the APRN Compact requires. Why are we limiting access to highly qualified nurse practitioners in a time of provider shortages?

APRNs have no seat at the table:

The compact will establish an overseeing Interstate Commission of the APRN Compact. Establishment of this Commission does not require APRN representation, risking oversight by individuals outside the profession. It is imperative we have representation by someone who understands the intricacies our profession.

Limits prescribing authority of APRNs:

The compact limits prescribing authority for APRNs in Maryland, compromising their ability to provide independent care, as previously gained through a hard-fought struggle for full practice authority.

We want a compact that does not set our practice backwards. Widespread support and reducing barriers are essential for a successful compact. We want to continue to advocate for nurse practitioners and provide the care our patients desperately need and deserve.

NPAM supports a compact but NOT this one. We advocate for an inclusive, widely supported agreement that advances rather than hinders nurse practitioners' practice.

I respectfully request that you **OPPOSE HB 425 – Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact.**

Sincerely,

Nicole Lollo

Nicole Lollo, MS, AGPCNP-BC
President
Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland