



Board of Nursing

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

January 22, 2024

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 425 – Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact – Letter of Support

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Nursing (the Board) respectfully submits this letter of support for House Bill (HB) 425 – Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact. This bill enters into the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Compact; establishes criteria for participating states; authorizes an advanced practice registered nurse to practice in a party state under certain scope of practice rules; establishes the Interstate Commission of APRN Compact Administrators and its duties and powers; requires the Compact Administrator of the State to make certain recommendations on the formation of the Commission; and provides for the amendment and withdrawal from the Compact.

The Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Compact, adopted on August 12, 2020, allows an advanced practice registered nurse to hold one multistate license with the privilege to practice in all participating member states. The goals of the Compact are to: (1) increase access to care by allowing APRNs to practice seamlessly across member states; (2) provide more choice for patients and APRNs; (3) eliminate redundant regulatory processes and duplicative fees; (4) facilitate APRN education by providing flexibility for students to have educational experiences across state lines; (5) improve response during disasters or other times of great need for qualified advanced practice nursing services; (6) support APRNs practicing to the full extent of their education and training to optimize the provision of care; (7) benefit military spouses with APRN licenses who often relocate every two years; (8) ensure public protection by granting authority of information sharing between regulatory bodies that regulate APRNs; and (9) maintain public protection at the state level by allowing states to retain autonomy and the authority to enforce the state nurse practice act.

In 2022, the Board, in collaboration with the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN), conducted an online survey of all advanced practice registered nurses and registered nurses licensed in Maryland to determine their interest in adopting the revised Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact. The study represented a state-wide survey of 6,289 nurses. The

results of the survey indicated that 94% of the APRN participants were in favor of Maryland adopting and implementing the provisions of the Compact.

The Board believes that adopting the APRN Compact would help to address the nursing workforce shortage in Maryland, due to the increased portability of licensure. In addition, the Compact would improve Board operations by decreasing the burden of processing endorsement applications. The Compact would lessen the number of endorsement applications submitted by APRNs who have an interest in providing telehealth or direct care to patients residing in the state and resulting in fewer manual reviews and verifications performed by Board staff. This will allow the Board to free up resources and reassign staff members to perform other administrative duties with various operational units instead.

For the reasons discussed above, the Maryland Board of Nursing respectfully submits this letter of support for HB 425.

I hope this information is useful. For more information, please contact Ms. Mitzi Fishman, Director of Legislative Affairs, at 410-585-2049 or mitzi.fishman@maryland.gov, or Ms. Rhonda Scott, Executive Director, at 410-585-1953 or rhonda.scott2@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,



Gary N. Hicks
Board President

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.