



Board of Nursing

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

February 4th, 2025

The Honorable Pamela Beidle
Chair, Finance Committee
Room 3
Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 407 – State Board of Nursing - Advanced Practice Nursing Licensure and Specialty Certification - Reciprocity Discussions (Maryland Border States Advanced Practice Nursing Act)

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee Members:

The Board of Nursing (the "Board") respectfully submits this letter of opposition for SB 407 Advanced Practice Nursing Licensure and Specialty Certification - Reciprocity Discussions (Maryland Border States Advanced Practice Nursing Act). While the Board supports the intent to improve licensure portability, we believe the bill creates unnecessary redundancies with the Board's current portability efforts; is unfeasible given the current understanding of border state positions on the matter, and the differences in scope of practice laws among those states; and would create an unnecessary burden on Board staff.

The bill will require the Board to prioritize discussions with nurse licensing boards in border states in pursuit of Advance Practice Registered Nurse ("APRN") reciprocity agreements, at the expense of other more routine responsibilities, including, but not limited to processing applications for licensure and certification, investigating complaints against licensees and certificate holders, and reviewing nursing education programs for approval and renewal, and it will require the Board to submit annual reports to the General Assembly for four years starting in November of this year.

The State is currently part of the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC), which allows registered nurses and licensed practical nurses to work across state lines seamlessly via a multistate license issued by the individual's home state, creating a simpler process for health professionals themselves, and fewer burdens on health occupations boards. All of the surrounding states, except the District of Columbia, are members of the NLC, which is managed by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) and has existed for more than 25 years.

Several years ago, the NCSBN created a model compact for APRNs. Though Maryland has not yet joined the APRN Compact, it has been enacted in four states, including Delaware. Once the APRN Compact is enacted in seven states, it will become effective. In addition to the four states in which the APRN Compact has already been enacted, two states (Arizona and Arkansas) have pending legislation to enact the APRN Compact. If passed in both states, it would bring the total

membership to six states and within clear sight of the seven state threshold. The Board believes that the APRN Compact is a better and more streamlined option than individual reciprocity agreements between states.

Part of the difficulty in establishing individual reciprocity is the many policy misalignments between Maryland and the surrounding states, including reduced practice authority for APRN's in Pennsylvania and West Virginia (collaboration agreement requirement), restricted practice authority for APRN's in Virginia (physician supervision requirement), and other differences in specific scope of practice laws in nearly all surrounding states. These barriers could be overcome in a uniform fashion through the APRN Compact but, if done through reciprocity, would require extensive negotiation with each state and still require applicants to meet individual state requirements, increasing bureaucracy and paperwork for both the Board and health professionals.

Finally, this bill would require the Board to hire additional staff and obtain additional resources, none of which are funded under current revenue estimates and available PINs. These additional expenditures would not be necessary if Maryland joins the APRN Compact, since current human resources and infrastructure at the Board would be sufficient to accommodate a transition to multistate licensure through the APRN Compact.

Thank you again for your time. 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christine Lechlitter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Christine" and last name "Lechlitter" clearly distinguishable.

Christine Lechlitter
Board President

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