

Bill: Maryland HB 0602, the Maryland Border States Advanced Practice Nursing Act

Sponsors: Delegate Thomas Hutchinson and Delegate Christopher Adams

Request a FAVORABLE Report

From: Roseann Velez, President, on behalf of the Delaware Coalition of Nurse Practitioners:

To: Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee:

I appreciate the opportunity to provide written testimony on behalf of the Delaware Coalition of Nurse Practitioners (DCNP) in support of Maryland HB 0602, which provides for the first steps to initiate a successful licensure process that increases patient access to care. DCNP is the voice of the 1,140 nurse practitioners in Delaware. After practicing for 20 years in Maryland, I relocated to Delaware and waited three months to practice due to an expensive, time-consuming credentialing process. Licensure reciprocity would shorten the typical three-month provider credentialing process and improve patient access to care.

Some regard the APRN Compact legislation as the only solution for minimizing barriers to NP practice across state lines. Although Delaware enacted the APRN Compact legislation in 2021, 4 years ago, implementing the compact will likely take many more years. While we wait for the APRN Compact to enact, the social drivers of health such as homelessness, addiction, violence, and unemployment challenge the care of patients who are ill-afforded the right care at the right time by the right provider.

With the current healthcare workforce shortage and the impact of social drivers of health on patient care, we must recognize the reasons why we spend more money on healthcare compared to other nations yet have the worst outcomes. HB 0602 can make a difference by enhancing speedier entry of APRNs into practice. On behalf of the Delaware Coalition of Nurse Practitioners, I request a **favorable report** for Maryland HB 0602.

Kind regards,

Roseann Velez, DNP, FNP-BC, FAANP

President of the Delaware Coalition of Nurse Practitioners