

Support: HB0602 Maryland Border States Advanced Practice Nursing Act

February 21, 2025

Maryland House of Representatives
Health and Government Operations Committee
House Office Building, Room 241
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison and Members of the Committee,

I am Dr. Janet Selway, a Maryland nurse practitioner since 1988. I speak today for the [Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland \(NPAM\)](#) the *only organization exclusively* representing Maryland nurse practitioners. I am an Associate Professor at the University of Maryland School of Nursing, and I direct one of seven nurse practitioner programs. I am a primary care provider for an underserved population on the Governor's Wellmobile.

Last year, the Maryland General Assembly passed [new regulations](#) authorizing all Health Occupations Boards, including the Maryland Board of Nursing, to engage in licensure reciprocity agreements with other states (Annotated Code of Maryland, § 1-229). Please consider the following:

- **HB0602** requires the Maryland Board of Nursing **to explore the potential** for establishing APRN licensure reciprocity agreements with our bordering jurisdictions (PA, DE, VA, WV & DC). This optional licensure pathway would speed up entry of APRNs into Maryland.
- Marylanders greatly need APRNs to fill in serious gaps in healthcare. The four types of APRNs (nurse practitioners, nurse anesthesiologists, nurse midwives, and clinical nurse specialists) have the educational preparation within their role to impact areas of dire need such as primary care, mental health care, anesthesia, and maternity care.
- In **December 2024**, the **Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)** identified over 100 Healthcare Professional Shortage Areas in Maryland:
 - **56 primary care** (deficit of 282 providers, 28.76% of need met, impacting 1.6 million Marylanders).
 - **48 mental health** (deficit of 81 providers, 22% of need met, impacting 1.5 million Marylanders).

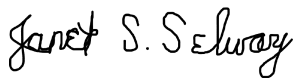
- A dire shortage of anesthesia providers exists, especially in the [Delmarva area](#). OB-GYN physician retirements are [fast outpacing replacements](#). In Maryland, 4.2% of counties are considered “maternity care deserts”.
- The Maryland Board of Physicians participates in the Interstate Medical Licensing Compact AND has an option for licensure by reciprocity for physicians licensed in DC and Virginia. In the first four months of implementing licensure reciprocity for DC and Virginia licensed physicians, 80 physicians applied.

An APRN licensure reciprocity agreement option between two states will:

- Speed up entry to practice for APRNs from states with reciprocal licensure agreements
- Facilitate access to telehealth services in surrounding jurisdictions
- Respect the autonomy of each state
- Preserve Board of Nursing oversight of APRN practice in Maryland
- APRN licensure reciprocity agreements:
 - Have no impact on future options for APRN licensure portability, such as a future revised APRN Compact
 - Have no impact on APRN scope of practice

Thank you, and we request a **favorable report for HB0602**

Sincerely,



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