

David Hogan  
Patient

Chairwoman Harhart, Chairman Readshaw and distinguished members of the committee, my name is David Hogan. I am honored to speak with you today about a matter that is very important to my health and the health of residents throughout the commonwealth – House Bill 765.

I'm one of the many private citizens who support HB 765 and we hope to see Pennsylvania join Washington, DC and the 21 states that have already adopted full practice authority.

I'm very pleased to share with you my experiences as a patient of a nurse practitioner. I hope that we will work together to make the kind of care I am receiving available to more Pennsylvanians.

Like many residents in the communities you represent, I suffer from a wide range of medical conditions. Some of these are acute, while others are long term. I also have the usual aches and pains of daily life

Several years ago, I needed to make a change in how I got my health care. I decided that a holistic approach was right for me. I chose a nurse practitioner because I wanted a patient-centered, multi-disciplined approach.

I researched different options and philosophies on managing my health care needs and saw a great value in the kind of nurturing attitude that nurses and nurse practitioners bring to the table.

I believe a lot of the value offered by this approach comes from the extensive training these health care professionals receive, and more importantly I believe it owes a lot to the personal attributes of those caring and dedicated people in our society who choose to become nurse practitioners.

I'm not alone in my belief. In recent years, experts such as the Institute of Medicine, the AARP, the National Governor's Association, the Federal Trade Commission, and the National Conference of State Legislatures have all endorsed policies that ease restrictions and expand health care access to millions of individuals across the nation.

I am very happy with my decision and the positive impact it has had on my health and quality of life. My nurse practitioner has made me an active participant in my health care decisions and thanks to her guidance I have made tremendous progress with my medical concerns.

I particularly appreciate the collaborative approach my nurse utilizes to ensure that I receive the best possible health care. We have brought in and worked with specialists - including physicians, other nurses and students - for a number of issues.

Because of the atmosphere created by my NP, I feel more like a full partner in my own health care.

You can't imagine my shock and disappointment when I received a call from my nurse practitioner a few years ago telling me that she had to close her clinic. When I asked her why, she explained the costly mandates and burdens NPs face in Pennsylvania.

I had no idea about any of that. All I knew was that my NP was the best health care provider I'd ever had, and now I was losing her.

I am very fortunate. My nurse practitioner found a new job and I am still able to see her. But most patients in my situation aren't so lucky.

I've experienced how nurse practitioners provide proven, high-quality care to patients. I am deeply concerned that many of my friends and neighbors may not have access to the same level of quality care unless all of us act together to eliminate the legal obstacles to full practice authority for nurse practitioners.

So many people in Pennsylvania are struggling to find an affordable source of quality health care, and too many of them won't have the same good fortune I have had in locating a nurse practitioner unless we remove those obstacles. NPs are highly-qualified, and provide much needed health care assistance, especially for our underserved, rural communities.

The changes being proposed are cost effective and bring a new set of resources to a heavily burdened health care system at a time when we really need them. Our communities need the skills and health services that nurse practitioners provide

Simply put, supporting HB 765 is the right thing to do for the residents of our state.

We need to join the growing number of states who have taken the necessary steps to remove the roadblocks separating residents from certified professionals.

Chairs Harhart and Readshaw and distinguished committee members, I implore you to please join me in supporting HB 765. Let's work together to pass legislation that will undoubtedly improve our well-being and the quality of life offered in our communities.

Thank you for your time and for this opportunity to speak.