

Comments from the Pennsylvania Action Coalition Regarding
Improving Access to Healthcare through Full Practice Authority for Nurse Practitioners
Joint Informational Meeting
PA House Health Committee and Professional Licensure Committees
Submitted February 29, 2024

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments to inform strategies that will improve access to healthcare. On behalf of the Pennsylvania Action Coalition (PA-AC), I am writing in support of House Bill 1825, which would provide **full practice authority for nurse practitioners** practicing in Pennsylvania.

As the Director of the PA-AC, [a coalition of healthcare leaders](#) from health systems, academia, foundations, and nursing organizations across Pennsylvania, I urge the House of Representatives to move forward on house legislation HB 1825 (Guenst, Cabell, Khan) to increase access to health care delivered by nurse practitioners.

The PA-AC was established in 2011 to create a healthier Pennsylvania through improvements in the quality, accessibility, and safety of nursing. As part of the national Campaign for Action, established by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, AARP and the AARP Foundation, the PA-AC works to implement the recommendations of the 2010 Institute of Medicine (now National Academy of Medicine) *Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health* and [The Future of Nursing 2020-2030: Charting a Path to Achieve Health Equity](#) report. The PA-AC is a program of the National Nurse-Led Care Consortium, a subsidiary of Public Health Management Corporation.

One conclusion of *The Future of Nursing 2020-2030: Charting a Path to Achieve Health Equity* states that “Eliminating restrictions on the scope of practice of advanced practice registered nurses and registered nurses so they can practice to the full extent of their education and training will increase the types and amount of high-quality health care services that can be provided to those with complex health and social needs and improve both access to care and health equity” (7).

The critical nature of removing scope-of-practice barriers in increasing access to healthcare was demonstrated by the easing of restrictions placed on nurse practitioners during the COVID-19 pandemic. Several states and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services eliminated these restrictions to increase the capacity of the healthcare workforce. Clearly, if government leaders concluded that this imperative would lead to better health outcomes, it would be counterproductive for those restrictions to be replaced or continue during the pandemic’s waning. Until nurse practitioners are permitted to practice to the full extent of their education and training, “significant and preventable gaps in access to care will continue,” ultimately leading to progression of chronic and acute disease processes for millions of people and ultimately increased healthcare cost (89).



A healthy PA through nursing

The PA-AC looks forward to a future where red tape no longer holds Pennsylvanians back from accessing healthcare. This no-cost solution will reduce health disparities and decrease disease burden across our state. It is time for this to be the reality in the Commonwealth.

Centre Square East
1500 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102
paaction@ncc.us
paactioncoalition.org

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Gimbel".

Jennifer (Horn) Gimbel, MBA
Director
Pennsylvania Action Coalition
jhorn@phmc.org
215.870.5361 Mobile

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2021. The Future of Nursing 2020-2030: Charting a Path to Achieve Health Equity. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/25982>.