

Comments from the Care for PA Coalition Regarding

Improving Access to Healthcare through Full Practice Authority for Nurse Practitioners

Joint Informational Meeting with the Health and Professional Licensure Committees

Pennsylvania House of Representatives

February 29, 2024

Thank you for holding an informational meeting to develop and advance strategies that can increase access to healthcare. The [Care for PA Coalition](#) is writing to express support of House Bill 1825, which would provide **full practice authority for nurse practitioners** practicing in Pennsylvania. The Care for PA Coalition is a bipartisan, cross-sector, interprofessional group of organizations that are committed to the success of legislation that will expand access to care delivered by nurse practitioners across the Commonwealth. The coalition is led by a Steering Committee reflecting the diversity of support for this issue and includes AARP PA, Amazon, Americans for Prosperity, the Commonwealth Foundation, the Convenient Care Association, the National Nurse-Led Care Consortium, the Pennsylvania Coalition of Nurse Practitioners, the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association, the Pennsylvania Association of Community Health Centers, the Pennsylvania Rural Health Association, Public Health Management Corporation, and the University of Pennsylvania Health System.

Pennsylvania is surrounded by states that have already modernized their nurse practice acts to enable nurse practitioners to practice to the full extent of their education and training: New York, Maryland, Delaware, and West Virginia. Similar legislation is also moving in New Jersey. Pennsylvania's current regulatory environment adds burdensome red tape that prevents [effective and efficient health care](#) delivery especially for the Commonwealth's most vulnerable rural and urban communities. A [recent study](#) looking at the impact of full practice authority in Maryland found that if Pennsylvania adopted this legislation, an additional 1,792 patients could be seen every week.

As the PA House of Representatives considers avenues for expanding access to health care, we strongly urge you to pass the full practice authority legislation already before you. When nurse practitioners can practice without the need for a costly business agreement with a physician that has [repeatedly been proven unnecessary](#), it reduces costs to health systems, health providers, payors, and, most importantly, patients. At its worst, the regulatory burden imposed by these contractual requirements prevents nurse practitioners in areas with physicians from practicing at all.

Full practice authority is not a professional turf war, and when it is treated as such, patients are the ones who bear the consequences. Full practice authority is a no cost solution that will immediately expand access to care. The evidence supports this policy change, and Pennsylvania should as well.

Nurse Practitioners Care for PA

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AARP Pennsylvania
Americans for Prosperity – PA
Bucks County Woman’s Advocacy Coalition
CareSpan Integrated Networks
Carlow University
Centre Volunteers in Medicine
Commonwealth Foundation
Convenient Care Association
Free Clinic Association of Pennsylvania
Geisinger Health System
Greater Philadelphia Business Coalition on Health
Hospital & Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania
Insurance Federation of Pennsylvania
Lehigh Valley Health Network
Main Line Health
National Association of Hispanic Nurses, Philadelphia Chapter
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
Optum Complex Care Management
Penn Medicine: the University of Pennsylvania Health System
Pennsylvania Association of School Nurses and Practitioners
Pennsylvania Coalition of Nurse Practitioners
Pennsylvania Health Access Network
Pennsylvania Health Law Project
Pennsylvania Homecare Association
Pennsylvania Organization of Nurse Leaders
Pennsylvania Public Health Association
Pennsylvania Rural Health Association
Pennsylvania State Nurses Association
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