



**Date:** May 13, 2019

**To:** Members of the Wisconsin State Legislature

**From:** Wisconsin Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) Coalition

**Subject:** Co-Sponsor LRB 0429/1 APRN Modernization Act

*Wisconsin Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives*



Statewide associations representing Advanced Practice Registered Nurses in Wisconsin has formed the Wisconsin APRN Coalition and are pleased to support the APRN Modernization Act – LRB-0429/1 authored by Senators LeMahieu (R-Oostburg), Ringhand (D-Evansville), Testin (R-Stevens Point) and Representatives Rohrkaste (R-Appleton) and Subeck (D-Madison). **The Wisconsin APRN Coalition respectfully asks you to co-sponsor LRB 0429/1.** This proposal will formally and legally define and describe the role, responsibility and accountability of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs). The consumers of their services will have safeguards that the requirements for licensure provide greater public protection.

*Wisconsin Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists*



APRNs are registered nurses who have acquired, through graduate-level education, advanced clinical knowledge and skills to provide direct patient care. Currently in Wisconsin there are two subsets of APRNs that are recognized in state statute, one set is licensed as certified nurse midwife and the other has a state issued certificate that provides authority to prescribe. There is however, another subset of APRNs who practice as advanced practice registered nurses but are not identified because they do not prescribe. LRB 0429/1 combines all of the subsets of APRNs into one category of practitioners.

*Wisconsin Association of Nurse Anesthetists*



There are four distinct types or roles for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses which are:

- ◆ Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM)
- ◆ Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA)
- ◆ Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS)
- ◆ Nurse Practitioner (NP)

*Wisconsin Chapter of the National Pediatric Nurse Practitioners*



**LRB 0429/1** incorporates a regulatory model that was developed by the National Council of States Board of Nursing which is being adopted across the country. **LRB 0429/1** defines the practice and the criteria that are required to be licensed as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse. The criteria are as follows:



- ◆ The schools preparing the APRN must be accredited.
- ◆ The APRN must have and maintain national board certification, in the role for which she/he has been educationally prepared.
- ◆ The APRN has graduated with a master’s degree in nursing or higher.

*Wisconsin Association of Nurse Practitioners*



- ◆ Has malpractice liability insurance coverage, at the same amount as a physician. This currently exists for those advanced practice nurses who prescribe.
- ◆ Obtain at least 16 hours of continuing education in either pharmacology or therapeutics.
- ◆ Must receive a permit from the Board of Nursing in order to prescribe.

Hospitals and clinics throughout Wisconsin are utilizing APRNs because their knowledge and skills support access to timely, safe, effective, and quality health care services.

Some examples:

- ◆ Expansion of access to timely and quality care in primary care through the utilization of Nurse Practitioners (NP).
- ◆ Expansion of access to timely and quality care in the hospital setting is supported by the utilization of Nurse Practitioners that perform Hospitalist work.
- ◆ Expansion of access to timely and quality care in the hospital and ambulatory care setting through utilization of Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS).
- ◆ Expansion of same-day surgery is dependent on the availability of safe and quality services provided by a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs).
- ◆ Expansion of preventive and health promotion services, particularly for those individuals with chronic diseases as delivered by Nurse Practitioners (NPs) and Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS).
- ◆ Increased utilization for women's health care provided by Certified Nurse Midwives (CNMs).
- ◆ Exploding Medicare population receives care from APRNs at a reasonable cost.
- ◆ More businesses are utilizing APRNs for on-site primary and occupational health services.

The recognition of all the practicing APRNs in statute will protect Wisconsin citizens by law that defines and describes the requirements to practice as an APRN. The Wisconsin APRN Coalition thanks you in advance for your consideration of our request that you sign-on as a co-sponsor of LRB 0429/1.