

**This is the Co-Sponsorship letter that was sent to the legislators-----**

**From:** Sen.LeMahieu <[Sen.LeMahieu@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sen.LeMahieu@legis.wisconsin.gov)>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 9, 2019 3:42 PM

**To:** \*Legislative All Assembly <[ALLASM@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:ALLASM@legis.wisconsin.gov)>; \*Legislative All Senate <[ALLSEN@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:ALLSEN@legis.wisconsin.gov)>

**Subject:** Co-Sponsorship of LRB-0429/1: The APRN Modernization Act

In honor of National Nurses Week, please consider co-sponsoring this bipartisan legislation.

To: All Legislators

From: Senators Devin LeMahieu, Janis Ringhand, and Patrick Testin  
Representatives Mike Rohrkaste and Lisa Subeck

Date: May 9, 2019

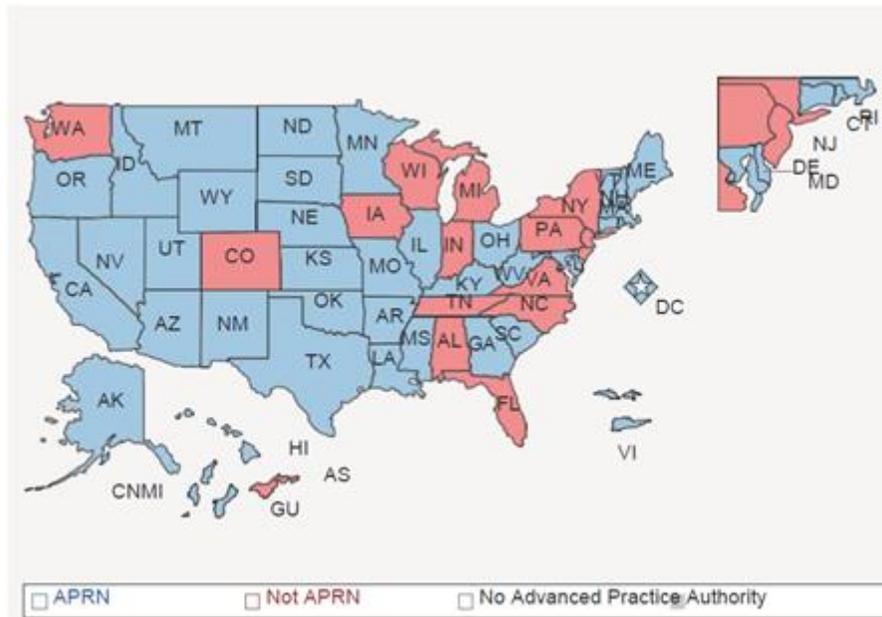
Re: Co-Sponsorship of LRB-0429/1: The APRN Modernization Act

Deadline: May 17, 2019

Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) are registered nurses with advanced knowledge, degrees and skill. They include Nurse Practitioners, Clinical Nurse Specialists, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists, and Certified Nurse Midwives.

We have a serious provider shortage. In the APRN categories, vacancy rates vary between 4 and 11 percent, according to a 2016 study by the Wisconsin Hospital Association. This shortage is felt all throughout the state, but it is particularly difficult to cope with in rural areas, where healthcare providers are even scarcer.

The APRN Modernization Act will bring Wisconsin in line with the National Consensus Model of Advanced Nurse Licensure. It will provide clarity to the scope of practice of these important healthcare providers in comparison to other professionals in the state and their peers across state lines. APRNs are recognized in states all across the country, including our neighbors Minnesota and Illinois



In order to be titled as an APRN a person must have graduated from a nursing program with a master's degree or higher in one of the four roles. Additionally, they must obtain at least 16 hours of continuing education per biennium.

It is important to note that this bill will not make it easier for a nurse to obtain prescribing authority. Individuals must earn the same certificate as they would need under current law.

Current statutes require one of the four advanced practice roles, nurse midwives, to have collaboration agreements with a physician while administrative rules require collaboration for the other advanced practice nurse roles. In practice this has led to written agreements or other forms of documentation. The profession and other stakeholders argue this has become a barrier and a burdensome requirement - particularly in underserved areas of the state. Removing this requirement from statute and creating the APRN Modernization Act will help provide regulatory flexibility and assist with removing barriers to allow these qualified providers to practice within their scope in the areas where they are needed most.

Recognizing APRN's will help ease the provider shortage we feel all across our state and make Wisconsin a more attractive place for these professionals to practice.

If you'd like to be added as a co-sponsor of the APRN Modernization Act please contact Sen. LeMahieu's office as 6-2056 or Rep. Rohrkaste's office at 6-5719.