The Honorable Tony Evers

Governor of Wisconsin

115 East State Capitol

Madison, WI 53707

RE: Request to Sign SB 394, The APRN Modernization Act

Dear Governor Evers,

I am a Nurse Practitioner graduate nursing student, and I am requesting that you sign SB 394 the APRN Modernization Act. This legislation provides a separate nursing license that supports the protection of the public by describing and defining the practice, role, responsibilities, and accountabilities to practice as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) and increase patient access to care.

APRNs are registered nurses who have acquired, through graduate-level education, advanced clinical knowledge, and skills to provide direct patient care throughout Wisconsin’s health care settings. Currently, there are approximately 9,000 or 10 percent of the registered nurse workforce that are practicing in an advanced practice nurse role.

SB 394 incorporate a regulatory model that was developed by the National Council of States Board of Nursing that has been adopted in 26 states and U.S. Territories. SB 394 defines the practice and the criteria that are required to be licensed as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse and include the following:

1. The four specific APRN specialty roles:
* Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM)
* Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA)
* Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS)
* Nurse Practitioner (NP)
1. The nursing programs/schools preparing the APRN must be accredited and approved by the Board of Nursing.
2. The APRN must have and maintain national board certification, in the role for which she/he has been educationally prepared.
3. The APRN has graduated with a master’s degree in nursing or higher.
4. The scope of practice for each of the four practice roles.
5. The expectation that the APRN will consult, collaborate, and/or refer to another health care provider when the care of the patient exceeds scope of practice.
6. Has and maintains malpractice liability insurance coverage, at the same amount as a physician.
7. Obtain at least 16 hours of continuing education in either pharmacology or therapeutics.

Wisconsin is witnessing a shortage of physicians in our population-dense and rural communities prior to, during, and post COVID-19 public health emergency. This is creating long wait times for individuals to access quality care in the most appropriate and cost-effective setting. We are seeing increased utilization of APRNs to support access to healthcare throughout Wisconsin’s communities. Research repeatedly demonstrates that APRNs provide safe, high-quality care with equivalent outcomes to their physician counterparts. This is why they are in such high demand.

I am looking forward to practicing as a licensed APRN in Wisconsin. My authority to practice to the full extent of my education, training, and experience will support patient access to care delivered by APRNs.

I thank you in advance for your consideration of my request that you sign SB 394.

Sincerely,