The Honorable Tony Evers

Governor of Wisconsin

115 East State Capitol

Madison, WI 53707

RE: Support SB 394, patient access to safe, quality and care delivered by Advanced Practice Registered Nurses

Dear Governor Evers,

I am writing to you to request that you sign SB 394, *The APRN Modernization Act*. I am one of the approximately 9,000 Advanced Practice Nurse Prescribers in Wisconsin. I practice as a Nurse Practitioner, and I want you to know that I want the ability to continue to practice with prescriptive authority without mandatory physician collaboration. Your October 1, 2020, Executive Order #2 that included Wis. Admin. Code§ N. 8.10(2) and (7) suspended mandatory physician collaboration. Your Executive Order has allowed me practice to the full scope of my education training and experience without any harm to my patients. I continue consult, collaborate, and refer my patients to physicians, and health care providers when the care of my patient exceeds my level of expertise. Paying a physician or physicians to be my collaborator is an expense that gets passed on to Medicaid, Medicare and other health care insurance companies, or to the patient without or little insurance coverage. Physician reimbursement in this manner should not be allowed again. Therefore, mandatory collaboration is not included in SB 394 except for CRNA pain management services.

Another reason why mandatory collaboration is impacting patient access is in the area of opioid addiction and utilization of Medication Assisted Therapy (MAT). MAT has been authorized under 42 CFR 8.1, that allows for qualified practitioners, including Nurse Practitioners, to offer buprenorphine, a medication approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), for the treatment of opioid use disorders through MAT. For certified NPs to provide this therapy, NPs must have collaboration with a certified MAT physician. Wisconsin is in the bottom 12th of all of the other states that have MAT certified physicians. This has created an access to care issue for Wisconsin as the federal law requires NP collaboration with a MAT-certified physician because Wisconsin has a NP - physician collaboration requirement. In states where NPs have full practice authority, the number of NP MAT certified providers has increased which in turn has increased the number of individuals being treated for opioid use disorders. SB 394 will allow for more NPs to provide MAT in Wisconsin as the collaboration requirement will cease.

SB 394 will provide the people of Wisconsin access to timely, high quality, economical and safe care in those areas where the services of Nurse Practitioners are providing care. This is particularly true for the rural and those communities with high health disparities. There are 25 other states where this is taking place and the populations care demands are being addressed by NPs with full practice authority.

It is for these reasons, Governor Evers, that I respectfully request your support of SB 394.