

Please Support the APRN Modernization Act



APRN MODERNIZATION ACT
*Education Accreditation
Certification Licensure*

What the APRN Modernization Act Accomplishes

The Wisconsin Nurses Association is asking for your support of the APRN Modernization Act. Pending reintroduction, the APRN legislation will address the following:

- Provides separate licensure that supports the protection of the public by describing and defining the practice, role, responsibilities, and accountabilities of Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN).
- Modernizes antiquated language to reflect current APRN practice and responsibilities.
- Eliminates unnecessary barriers that have proven to provide no value to the delivery and safety of APRN care and services.
- Set a high standard of safety in caring for our patients through Board of Nursing oversight.

Current Patient Access to Health Care

Wisconsin is witnessing a shortage of physicians in our population-dense and rural communities prior to, during, and the post COVID-19 public health emergency. This is creating long wait times for individuals to access quality care in the most appropriate cost-effective setting. We are seeing increased utilization of APRNs to support access to health care throughout all of 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.

Overview of the key components of the APRN Modernization Act

- Modernizes Wisconsin's Nurse Practice Act, § Chapter 441 to reflect the national consensus model being adopted across the country.
- Reflects a practice model that has been adopted in 26 other states.
- Provides separate licensing for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN).
- The APRN license identifies the practice role: Certified Nurse Midwife, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist, Clinical Nurse Specialist and Nurse Practitioner
- Requires APRN educational program have national accreditation.
- Hold and maintain national board certification in their practice role.
- Requires the individual to graduate with a master's degree or higher in an APRN role or a post-master's certificate,

- Adds a definition for Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) and scope of practice.
- Requires evidence of medical malpractice and liability insurance coverage.
- Reinforces the practice standard for an APRN to consult, collaborate and refer patients to other health care providers when the care the patient exceeds their expertise.
- Grants title protection for APRN and the four specialties; Certified Nurse Midwife, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist, Clinical Nurse Specialist and Nurse Practitioner.
- Gives the Wisconsin Board of Nursing authority in regulating APRN nursing programs.
- Adds language of the employer right to have practice requirements as a condition of employment.
- Repeals §441.15 – Nurse Midwife Practice Act.
- Repeals §441.16 – Prescription Privileges for Advanced Practice Nurses.
- Provide technical amendments to replace Advanced Practice Nurse Prescriber (APNP) with APRN for over 50 State Statutes.

Other information

- Wisconsin’s Nurse Practice Act, State Statute 441, is relatively silent when it comes to defining the role and responsibility of advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs).
- Legislation recognized advanced practice registered nurses in 1995 when subsets of these practitioners were granted prescriptive authority. Wisconsin State Statute 441.16 was created to allow advanced practice nurse to prescribe medications under the conditions defined. APRNs practice beyond the realm of prescriber work. Clarity regarding their legal definition and role are needed.
- According to a report of the U.S. Federal Trade Commission, APRNs play a critical role in alleviating provider shortages and expanding access to health care services for medically underserved populations by commenting on how the requirements for physician collaboration for licensure creates scope of practice restrictions and may eliminate APRNs as an important source of safe, lower-cost competition. Such a reduction of competition may lead to a number of anticompetitive effects.
- Currently in Wisconsin, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses cannot provide pharmacologic-related care without having a documented collaborative relationship with a physician. This has become an artificial barrier effectively giving one group of health care professionals the ability to restrict access to the market by another, competing group of health care professionals, thereby denying health care consumers the benefits of greater competition and access to care. The APRN physician collaboration requirement is currently suspended because of the COVID-19 public health emergency. APRNs practicing independently who have ceased their documented physician relationship are saving substantial dollars each month while continuing to provide, safe, quality and accessible care.
- Wisconsin’s population is aging. The workforce predictions from Wisconsin Hospital Association show a dire need for health care providers now—and worsening in the near future. APRNs have proven themselves ready and able to fill those needs, particularly in rural and urban underserved areas. APRNs provide access to care at no added cost to the state, no delay in the benefit to the consumer or the state and are a solution.

WNA request that you support The APRN Modernization Act. For more information contact gina@wisconsinnurses.org