



## **SUPPORT THE ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE MODERNIZATION ACT**

Wisconsin's population is aging, workforce predictions from the Wisconsin Hospital Association show a dire need for health care providers now—and in the future. Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) 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 or delay in the benefit to the consumer and are a solution that has a track record of 50 years of success. According to the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DPS), on January 31, 2022, there are 8,942 advanced practice nurses providing care to the residents of Wisconsin.

APRNs provide demonstrated quality and accessible care in clinical areas, including but not limited to primary care, hospitals, psychiatric and mental health clinics, and anesthesia. There are 26 states and U.S. territories that have APRN Practice Acts. The practice act describes the conditions and criteria necessary to be licensed and to remain licensed as an APRN in Wisconsin. WNA strongly advocated for the legislation that was passed by the legislature last session. Unfortunately, it was vetoed by the Governor.

This year Governor Evers included the APRN Modernization Act in his 2023-25 budget bill. This portion of the Governor's budget will more than likely be excluded in the final budget proposal because it is viewed as policy and not focus on finances. In anticipation of this action, WNA is working with, legislators other APRN associations, and medical associations to work on the language for the bill.

### **WNA is asking legislators to support the APRN Modernization Act which contains the following:**

- Creates a new type of nursing license, the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN).
- Defines the scope of practice and the criteria needed to obtain and maintain APRN Licensure.
- Identify the four advanced practice nursing roles for licensure as an APRN: Certified Nurse Midwife, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist, Clinical Nurse Specialist and Nurse Practitioner.
- The criteria for licensure include the following:
  - 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 from an accredited school of nursing.
  - The APRN has malpractice liability insurance coverage at the same amount as a physician. This currently exists for those advanced practice nurses who prescribe.
  - The APRN must obtain at least 16 hours of continuing education in either pharmacology or therapeutics\*.
  - The APRN will consult, collaborate, or refer patients to a physician or other appropriate health care provider when the care exceeds the APRN expertise.
  - To practice independently, newly licensed APRN graduates are required to work in a collaborative relationship with a physician for approximately two years before practicing to the full extent of the APRN's scope of practice.
- To maintain national board certification, certifying bodies require 100 hours every five years,

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