



POSITION STATEMENT: Full Practice Authority for APRNs

ANA-Ohio supports the efforts of advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) and their professional organizations to achieve full practice authority in Ohio and elsewhere. As a professional organization for all registered nurses, ANA-Ohio is committed to efforts that improve health care access, affordability, quality, and address the growing health care provider shortage.

APRNs, since their inception in 1960, have demonstrated they have the educational preparation and experience required to safely and effectively meet the health care needs of patients and their families, particularly with respect to primary care. Granting APRNs full practice authority in Ohio would greatly expand the reach of health care services, working to reduce health care disparities by ensuring that more Ohioans have access to timely and cost-effective care. This is particularly crucial in areas where primary care physicians are scarce. Eighty-eight percent of nurse practitioners are prepared to practice in primary care.¹

The extraordinary value APRNs bring to health care has been recognized in 32 states and the District of Columbia where APRNs already have full practice authority. In 2015, RAND Corporation researchers examined the potential effect of granting full practice authority to APRNs in Ohio. Their results demonstrated this would likely increase access to health care services for as many as 1.5 million Ohioans, and reduce the number of ambulatory care--sensitive emergency visits by 70,000 without a clear increase in costs.²

In the face of an unprecedented shortage of physicians,³ especially those in primary care, continuing to place unnecessary practice restrictions on a vital segment of the health care workforce that is significantly expanding, experienced, and prepared to practice in areas where they are most needed is illogical and without merit. It has been twelve years since the Institute of Medicine recommended that nurses be authorized to practice to the full extent of their education and training and that barriers be removed.⁴ Since 2014, the Federal Trade Commission has urged state legislators to avoid imposing restrictions on APRN scope of practice, as their critical role in alleviating provider shortages and expanding access to health care services for medically underserved populations has been recognized.⁵

ANA-Ohio is a professional organization for all registered nurses in Ohio regardless of educational preparation, practice area, or level of experience. Its mission is to empower nurses to achieve excellence through education, advocacy, and leadership. ANA-Ohio advocates for nurses and their advancement and is dedicated to the facilitation of accessible and affordable holistic health care provided by well-qualified individuals to all populations, particularly the underserved.

References

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