

MD: Chesapeake NAPNAP Chapter Official Statement Opposing the new APRN Compact Requirements

The Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) protests the National Council State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) passage of the 2020 version of the APRN Compact and will not support efforts to enact Maryland state legislation necessary for implementation of this version of the APRN compact.

The MD Chesapeake Chapter of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners includes over 200 primary and acute care pediatric nurse practitioners (PNPs) and pediatric advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) who are committed to improving the health of and advocating for Maryland's pediatric patients.

The inclusion of minimum practice hours as a requirement for a multi-state APRN license directly conflicts with the evidence that APRNs are prepared to safely enter practice after graduation from an accredited program and passage of a national certification board examination. The minimum practice hour requirement hinders care access, increases health care costs, and does not improve patient outcomes. Conversely, removing APRN practice barriers like this could help increase health care access in underserved areas across the state, thereby improving health outcomes.

In addition we cannot support this version as it fails to specifically include an APRN advisory committee to counsel Compact Administrators which is detrimental to advanced practice nursing as a profession. The perspectives and expertise of APRNs are essential to support and assist administrative entities governing the regulation of advanced nursing practice.

The COVID-19 public health pandemic has exposed oppressive barriers created by arbitrary inconsistencies and unnecessary restrictions in APRN licensure. We realize the need for APRN compact licensure but cannot support this version with the current requirements including the minimum practice hours and omission of specific language stating an APRN will be on the advisory committee.

For these reasons the Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP **opposes this version of the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact**. We strongly support the concept of an APRN compact to enable advanced practice nurses to provide quality care across state lines. However we cannot support this version. **We look forward to working to develop a version of the APRN compact we can support.**

You can find our national organization's statement here
<https://www.napnap.org/national-association-of-pediatric-nurse-practitioners-official-statement-opposing-new-aprn-compact-requirements/>.