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Support

HB276 Clinical Nurse Specialists – Prescribing Authority

February 27, 2022

The Chesapeake Bay (Maryland) Affiliate of the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists (CBANACNS) supports passage of Del. Bonnie Cullison HB 276 Clinical Nurse Specialists – Prescribing Authority

I am a clinical nurse specialist with over 45 years of experience as a registered nurse and 17 years as an advanced practice clinical nurse specialist in Maryland, and the President of CBANACNS. The clinical nurse specialist is one of “4” advanced practice nursing roles prepared at the Master’s or Doctoral level, educated and trained to diagnose, treat disease and illness and prescribe. Currently 80% of the 50 states and US Department of Veterans Affairs have granted CNSs prescribing privileges – Maryland still has not.

CNSs are change agents working across the continuum of healthcare to improve patient outcomes, increase access to quality care, identify and decrease patient safety hazards – all based on evidence-based best practices. It is within the CNS education, training and scope of practice to be able to prescribe. Prescribing is a complex process and not limited to medication orders. CNSs across Maryland want their voice to be heard – granting prescribing authority to the CNS would fill gaps in care, help patients function better at home, meet needs of the patients for medications, non-pharmaceutical agents, effective treatment plans, improve continuity of care, reduce length of hospital stay and decrease hospital readmissions.

This bill will allow the CNS prescribing authority to optimize patient access to and the delivery of quality healthcare, filling the gaps. We urge a favorable report on this bill. If you need further information, please contact me at sallan808286@gmail.com

Respectfully,

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