

Steven Sepe

From: Stephanie Machado <skinsciencewithsteph@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2025 7:44 PM
To: House Health and Human Services Committee
Cc: Rep. Baginski, Jacquelyn M.; PolicastroGroup@gmail.com
Subject: In Support of Bill H-5351

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to support the proposed bill H-5351.

I work as a manager and aesthetician within a medical spa and work hand in hand with various levels of medical providers including a number of nurse practitioners. I know first hand the impact this bill will have and the detriment it will cause if it does not pass and so felt compelled to write to you in support.

APRNs in Rhode Island have full-practice authority, which means they are able to practice to the full extent of their education and training without physician supervision or collaboration, including the operation of independent practices.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, restrictions on the scope of practice for APRNs were removed by state and federal governments so that patients would have proper access to the care they needed in a timely fashion, demonstrating that NPs are in-fact, capable of practicing medicine independently and that this practice results in better patient outcomes at reduced healthcare costs. Removing this ability to practice will have an incredibly detrimental impact on not only Nurse Practitioners, but also patients who will have reduced access to care, longer wait times for visits due to shortages of providers, and higher expense to be treated. It will also greatly affect the employment of support staff. Overall, this will create a detrimental domino effect resulting in a significant number of small business closures and the loss of jobs for an incredible number of people.

Legislation against this would serve only to benefit MDs, specifically dermatologists, while hurting countless highly proficient and adequately trained Nurse Practitioners and creating a barrier to convenient, timely, and cost-effective care to patients. There will also be detrimental economic effects including unemployment and loss of revenue for the state. On a personal note, this would also lead to the closure of my place of work resulting in the loss of not only my job, but several others.

As a patient myself, I have often seen NPs during a variety of medical appointments and found them to be caring, compassionate, and exceptionally knowledgeable. They have also always worked collaboratively with physicians whenever necessary and in the best interest for their patient.

I respectfully request that you take my statement into consideration when reviewing the proposed bill and that the same is approved so that APRNs continue to be allowed to practice independently.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Machado
Avalon Medical Spa