



February 8, 2022

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Maryland General Assembly
Chair, Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Senate Bill 154 - Support

Dear Chair Pinsky:

The Alliance for Connected Care (the Alliance) is an advocacy organization dedicated to facilitating the delivery of high-quality care using connected care technology. Our members are leading health care and technology companies from across the health care spectrum, representing insurers, health systems and technology innovators, and our Advisory Board includes more than 40 patient and provider groups.

We are writing to express our support for Senate Bill 154, which would adopt the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact. Under this compact, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) licensed in a Compact member state may practice in another Compact member state, allowing APRNs to have one multistate license with the ability to practice in all Compact states without having to obtain additional licenses.

As a telehealth advocacy organization, the Alliance believes APRNs are an essential component to expanding access to care through the use of telehealth, especially for patients who live in rural and underserved communities who may not have access to services they need where they reside. APRNs have also been critical to expanding access to care throughout the pandemic, particularly in areas experiencing workforce shortages. One of the biggest barriers to telehealth becoming a regular patient and provider choice is the administrative burden caused by the variation in licensure requirements from state to state.

The APRN Compact would help alleviate such administrative burdens through establishing a multistate compact that has a policy of mutual licensure recognition and that does not require additional licensing, while simultaneously helping to improve patient access to quality health care. This bill would help to improve continuity of care, increase licensure portability for APRNs, and increase consumer access to health care in the state of Maryland. It would also help expand the utilization of telehealth without unnecessary regulatory barriers.

We hope the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee will support Senate Bill 154. Thank you for your consideration, we look forward to working with you on this important effort. Please contact Casey Osgood at 203-536-5865 or casey.osgood@connectwithcare.org with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Krista Drobac". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Drobac
Executive Director
Alliance for Connected Care