

**Coalition of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses**

Working to advance the health of all Georgians.

www.CAPRN.org

**2013-2014 Legislative Agenda**

Georgia confronts a critical shortage of health care professionals. Georgia also has one of the highest populations of uninsured individuals in the nation along with unacceptably high rates of preventable chronic illness, disabilities and premature death. Yet, in the face of such circumstances, Georgia maintains outdated, restrictive laws and regulations that negatively affect the health of Georgia’s citizens. Currently, many legislative and regulatory barriers exist that prevent and/or delay qualified, licensed, and certified advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) from applying their proven knowledge, education, and skills to improve the health status of Georgia’s citizens. The Coalition of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (CAPRN) seeks to modernize and update Georgia’s practice laws and remove barriers that prevent patients from accessing the full services of APRNs. These steps are critically needed by our state, so that Georgia will be capable of meeting current and future demands for safe, high quality, and cost-effective health care by its citizens. CAPRN’s health policy and legislative priorities for 2013-2014 include:

Health Advocacy

* Support accessible, affordable, community-based primary care, prevention, acute and chronic disease management services to reduce the need for more costly, high-tech emergency, medical, and surgical treatments in hospitals.
* Support evidence-based public health and prevention strategies to reduce harm and improve health.
* Support and encourage interdisciplinary collaboration to fully engage and leverage the capacities of all healthcare professions to improve Georgia’s health outcomes and contain health costs.
* Develop and support collaborative coalition participation consistent with the vision and mission of CAPRN.

Professional Advocacy

* Support provider inclusive (as opposed to physician exclusive) language in all laws and regulations.
* Support recognition of APRN’s as providers by all entities.
* Support the removal of policies preventing patients from accessing or obtaining efficient, timely health care as provided by APRNs or collaborative teams that include APRNs.
* Support the removal of statutory barriers to practice and care by authorizing APRN’s to:
	+ Order common diagnostic tests by supporting passage of SB 94
	+ Prescribe Schedule II medications
	+ Sign death certificates
* Support the development of quality measures that include metrics for capturing the care provided by APRNs.
* Monitor regulatory policies that affect the provision of care by APRNs including:
	+ Support the removal of barriers affecting the full implementation of APRN prescriptive authority.
	+ Support the removal of barriers that prevent APRNs from practicing to the full extent of their education, knowledge, and skills as currently allowed by law.
	+ Support the removal of barriers that create or institute delays in the provision of APRN care.
	+ Ensure that APRN’s are fully recognized and included in regulations related to the implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

Adopted 9/2013