



ARKANSAS MEDICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 55088 | Little Rock, AR 72215 | 1-501-224-8967 | 1-800-542-1058 | email: ams@arkmed.org

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

WHITE COAT ALERT | FEBRUARY 14, 2017

IMMEDIATE ACTION NEEDED

AMS **needs you** to attend the House Public Health committee **this Thursday morning, February 16, at the Capitol**. We expect the nurses to have between 30 to 40, so we need at least a similar number of physicians to show up in white coats or it will not look good. The committee normally meets at 10:00 am, but we need physicians to be there **WITH WHITE COATS ON at 9:00 am in ROOM 130 OF THE CAPITOL**.

Also, whether you can attend or not, please **Immediately contact** your state Representative if on the Public Health committee listed below and please share with them the following:

House Public Health Committee Scope of Practice Bills:

OPPOSE HB 1181 – Rep. Dan Sullivan

Allows for APRN Schedule II prescribing AND provides two alternative independent prescribing practice pathways.

1. The first independent prescribing practice alternative would require an APRN to complete a one-year nursing program with physician, or with an APRN with 3 years practice and prescriptive authority.
2. The second independent prescribing practice alternative offered in the bill would be if the APRN has either had prescriptive authority for three years in Arkansas or another state with similar prescriptive rules.

Points for Discussion

- Independent practice for APRNs does NOT improve access to healthcare in rural areas. States that have granted independent practice show no different rural access than states that have not granted independent practice.
- APRNs in Tennessee are only about 22% of total prescribers in the state, but had 35 of the top 50 prescribers of opioids (70%) in 2014.
- Training is different from physicians, if APRNs want to practice medicine...the appropriate pathway is medical school.

OPPOSE HB 1182 – Rep. Dan Sullivan

1. Authorizes Arkansas Medicaid to allow an APRN to be designated a Primary Care Provider and mandates that they be paid the same rate as a physician for out-of-pocket services (lab tests, x-rays) and 90% of physician rate for services.
2. Gives Arkansas State Board of Nursing ability to "conclusively" interpret scope and licensure of APRNs.

Points for Discussion

- Physicians are best situated to lead the team-based approach of a patient-centered medical home.

- There is no shortage of physicians willing to see Medicaid patients in Arkansas and serve as their PCP. Actually, there are plenty of physicians all around the state who have agreed to take a certain number of Medicaid patients and to serve as their PCPs who have yet to reach their stated capacity.
- The nursing board should not become the interpreter of an APRN's scope of practice. In 2005 and 2006, the nursing board advocated that an APRN's scope included: penile implants, c-sections, bone marrow aspiration, destruction of malignant lesions, colonoscopies (among many other included CPT code reimbursement requests to Arkansas Medicaid in letters dated June 15, 2005 and March 10, 2006).

OPPOSE HB 1186 – Rep. Karilyn Brown

This bill removes the collaborative practice agreement for APRNs with prescriptive authority.

Points for Discussion

- Independent practice for APRNs does NOT improve access to healthcare in rural areas. States that have granted independent practice show no different rural access than states that have not granted independent practice.
- Training is different from physicians, if APRNs want to practice medicine...the appropriate pathway is medical school.

OPPOSE HB 1228 – Rep. Kim Hammer

Allows APRNs to prescribe Schedule II.

Points for Discussion

- APRNs in Tennessee are only about 22% of total prescribers in the state, but had 35 of the top 50 prescribers of opioids (70%) in 2014.

SUPPORT HB 1205 – Rep. Stephen Magie, MD

Creates licensure for Anesthesiology Assistants.

Points for Discussion

- Would license a group of highly trained professionals (already licensed in a number of states with training equal to CRNA's training) to work directly under anesthesiologists.

SUPPORT HB 1254 – Rep. Stephen Magle, MD

Transfers regulatory authority of APRNs to the Arkansas State Medical Board.

Points for Discussion

- Only two of the Arkansas State Board of Nursing's 13 members are APRNs. What qualifies the remaining 11 non-APRN members (mainly LPNs and RNs) to regulate a prescribing APRNs?
- A transfer would increase communication and cooperation between the physician community and APRNs, and provide for an environment to strengthen collaborative practice throughout the state.

Again, these bills will be in the House Public Health committee **this Thursday morning, February 16**. Please ask your Representative (if listed below) to **OPPOSE the four APRN bills** and **SUPPORT BOTH of Rep. Magie's bills** listed above.

House Switchboard - (501) 682-6211

House Public Health Committee

Rep. Jeff Wardlaw (Chair) - Hermitage	870-226-9501	jeff@jeffwardlaw.com
Rep. Deborah Ferguson, DDS (Vice-Chair) West Memphis	870-735-7098	deborah.ferguson@arkansashouse.org
Rep. Mary Bentley - Perryville	501-333-2297	mary.bentley@arkansashouse.org
Rep. Justin Boyd - Fort Smith	479-262-2156	justin.boyd.pharm.d@gmail.com

Rep. David Branscum - Marshall	870-448-6290	davidbranscum@hotmail.com
Rep. Bruce Coleman - Mountainburg	479-806-6825	bruce.coleman@arkansashouse.org
Rep. Justin Gonzales - Okolona	870-245-6365	justinrory@yahoo.com
Rep. Kim Hammer - Benton	501-840-3841	kimdhammer@yahoo.com
Rep. Ken Henderson - Russellville	479-970-4850	ken4arkansas@gmail.com
Rep. Jack Ladyman - Jonesboro	870-340-7499	jackladyman@gmail.com
Rep. Fredrick Love - Little Rock	501-612-3939	fjlove@att.net
Rep. Robin Lundstrum - Elm Springs	479-957-1959	robin.lundstrum@arkansashouse.org
Rep. Stephen Magie, MD - Conway	501-327-4444	stephen.magie@arkansashouse.org
Rep. Austin McCollum - Bentonville	479-426-4141	austin.mccollum@arkansashouse.org
Rep. David Meeks - Conway	501-277-9340	david.meeks@arkansashouse.org
Rep. Josh Miller - Heber Springs	501-365-3599	josh.miller@arkansashouse.org
Rep. John Payton - Wilburn	501-362-5815	john.payton@arkansashouse.org
Rep. Aaron Pilkington - Clarksville	479-308-8384	aaron.pilkington@arkansashouse.org
Rep. Chris Richey - West Helena	870-995-2499	chris.richey@arkansashouse.org
Rep. Richard Womack - Arkadelphia	870-403-6287	richard@richardwomack.com

Senate Public Health Committee Scope of Practice Bill OPPOSED by AMS:

TOMORROW MORNING, Wednesday, February 15, the CRNA bill removing physician supervision will be heard. If you have not already, please ask your Senator (if listed below as being on the Senate Public Health committee) to **OPPOSE SB 171**.

SB 171 – Senator Gary Stubblefield

This bill, as amended, still removes physician supervision of CRNAs, but now states CRNAs would work "in coordination with" a physician, which is an undefined term.

Points for Discussion

- Physician supervision provides the safest environment for patients.
- Also, this legislation could allow CRNAs to open their own independent pain clinics.

Senate Switchboard • (501) 682-2902

Senate Public Health Committee

Sen. Cecile Bledsoe (Chair) - Rogers	479-636-2115	cecile.bledsoe@senate.ar.gov
Sen. Eddie Cheatham (Vice-Chair) - Crossett	870-364-5659	eddie.cheatham@senate.ar.gov
Sen. John Cooper - Jonesboro	870-761-0130	john.cooper@senate.ar.gov
Sen. Lance Eads - Springdale	479-435-5139	lance.eads@senate.ar.gov
Sen. Scott Flippo - Bull Shoals	870-421-3420	scott.flippo@senate.ar.gov
Sen. Stephanie Flowers - Pine Bluff	870-535-1032	stephanie.flowers@senate.ar.gov
Sen. Missy Irvin - Mountain View	870-269-2703	missy.irvin@senate.ar.gov
Sen. David Sanders - Little Rock	501-682-6107	davidjamesanders@gmail.com