



Coalition of Michigan Organizations of Nursing

- Academy of Medical Surgical Nurses Greater SE Michigan Chapter
- American Association of Critical Care Nurses-SE Michigan Chapter
- American Association of Critical Care Nurses-The Chapters
- American College of Nurse Midwives
- Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
- Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
- Detroit Black Nurses Association
- Emergency Nurses Association
- Far Eastern and American Nurses Association
- Institute of Professional Nursing
- Lambda Chi Chapter Chi Eta Phi Sorority
- Lansing Community College Nursing Careers Program
- Maternal Newborn Nurse Professionals
- Metro Detroit Oncology Nursing Society
- Michigan Association for Local Public Health
- Michigan Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
- Michigan Association of Colleges of Nursing
- Michigan Association of Nurse Anesthetists
- Michigan Association of Occupational Health Nurses
- Michigan Association of Peri-Anesthesia Nurses
- Michigan Association of Occupational Healthcare Professionals
- Michigan Association of School Nurses
- Michigan Board of Nursing
- Michigan Center for Nursing
- Michigan Council of Nursing Education Administrators
- Michigan Council of Nurse Practitioners
- Michigan Council of periOperative Registered Nurses
- Michigan Dept. of Community Health, Office of the Chief Nurse Executive
- Michigan League for Nursing
- Michigan Licensed Practical Nurses Association
- Michigan Nurses Association
- Michigan Nursing Students Association
- Michigan Organization of Nurse Executives
- Michigan Public Health Association, Public Health Nursing Section
- Michigan Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates
- National American Arab Nurses Association
- National Association for Directors of Nursing in Long Term Care
- National Association of Hispanic Nurses
- National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
- Philippine Nurses Association of Michigan
- Rochester College, School of Nursing
- Registered Nurses Association In Michigan
- West Michigan Nursing Advisory Council

The Honorable Jim Marleau
 P.O. Box 30036
 Lansing, MI 48909

May 30, 2012

Dear Senator Marleau:

Regarding Senate Bill 481: This legislation will modernize Michigan's restrictive healthcare regulatory environment by enabling Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) to practice to the full extent of their required education, license, and competencies. The legislation also will positively address access to care issues in Michigan's underserved communities by increasing the number of healthcare providers. COMON strongly supports SB 481, and advocates for all Michigan APRNs.

This letter is sent on behalf of the **Coalition of Michigan Organizations of Nursing (COMON)**, representing 42 Michigan nursing organizations, with membership of over 40,000 nurses. Modernizing Michigan's regulatory environment to maximize the use of APRN healthcare professionals to meet the demand for healthcare services is COMON's highest policy priority for 2011-2015. COMON urges you and the Senate Health Policy Committee to report out this legislation.

SB 481 proposes autonomous practice and separate licensure for Certified Nurse Practitioners (CNP), Certified Nurse Midwives (CNMs), and Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS-Cs). This improved regulatory environment must be provided for all APRNs. Extensive research has shown that APRNs provide cost-effective care that is equal to or better than care provided by equivalent physicians (see attached *Summary of the Future of Nursing*, Institute of Medicine (IOM), 2010). In rural areas of Michigan, APRNs are often the only practitioners providing primary, obstetrical, and anesthesia care.

As Michigan's percentage of residents over age 65 grows, the need for additional healthcare providers will continue to rise. During Governor Snyder's Michigan Health Address in September 2011 he referred to the growing Michigan physician shortage and the need to educate more healthcare providers to meet growing demand over the next 20 years. Michigan must remove regulatory barriers that put the state at a disadvantage for attracting and keeping APRN healthcare providers.

Michigan educates hundreds of APRNs each year, but at least 30% of our APRN graduates leave the state to find a more supportive, less restrictive regulatory environment for their practice. Several national entities, including the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) and the U.S. Federal Trade Commission have stated that legislation removing practice restrictions for all APRNs is pro-competition and improves consumers' access to affordable healthcare.¹

If we can be a resource for you as you move forward, please contact me at lstaft3@att.net; or contact the COMON office (see below). Thank you for listening to the 40,000 voices of COMON.

Linda Taft, RN, Chair, Coalition of Michigan Organizations of Nursing

¹ *Access to Care and Advanced Practice Nurses*, (2010) American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). United States of America.

Federal Trade Commission. Office of Policy and Planning, Bureau of Economics, and Bureau of Competition. Florida House Bill 4103 (2006). 2011. <http://www.ftc.gov/os/2011/03/V110004campbell-florida.pdf>. United States of America. Federal Trade Commission. Office of Policy and Planning, Bureau of Economics, and Bureau of Competition. Texas Senate Bill 1260 and 1339. 2011. <http://www.ftc.gov/os/2011/05/V110007texasaprn.pdf>.