



Michigan Psychiatric Society

216 N. Chestnut Street
Lansing, MI 48933

September 9, 2014

The Honorable Gail Haines and Members of the House Health Policy Committee:

The Michigan Psychiatric Society, a district branch of the American Psychiatric Association, represents over 700 physicians in Michigan who specialize in psychiatry. **Today, we write to you with our concerns regarding Senate Bill 2, to which we are strongly opposed.**

MPS wishes to state our respect and support for the nursing profession and recognize the important and rapidly advancing patient care supported by nursing education and practice. The work of nurses at all levels is increasingly essential to meeting the expanding medical needs of our population. In particular, Advanced Practice Nurses (APNs) have an essential role in the reforming of our health care systems to ensure quality, capacity, and cost effectiveness.

Psychiatrists have recognized the current crisis in access to care. In many emerging practice models in Michigan, the general medical care needs of people with serious mental illness are met through the work of APNs in mental health clinical settings. This is critical given that persons with serious mental illness die 25 years earlier, on average, than do people without mental illness.

Michigan has been unique among states in that our health occupation code has long recognized that nurses with appropriate training and accumulated professional experience are able to demonstrate an expanded scope of competency and can gain delegated authority for certain aspects of medical care, including prescribing.

In Michigan, our law has not yet differentiated or recognized the emerging advanced nursing specialties. However, **SB 2 goes too far and fails to acknowledge the difference in the duration and focus of physician education, training and experience as compared to that of nurse practitioners.**

APN's essential role in our evolving healthcare system should be, we strongly feel, in the context of team-based collaborative health care. The American Medical Association (AMA) defines team-based health care as "the provision of health care services by a physician-led team of at least two health care practitioners who work collaboratively with each other, the patient and the family to accomplish shared goals within and across settings to achieve coordinated, high-quality, patient-centered care." **We strongly object to those provisions of SB 2 that unacceptably subvert what we feel is the spirit of this vision of team-based collaborative health care.**

MPS believes that health professionals working together deliver the best care. We support examining and addressing barriers to APNs practicing to their full competency in Michigan. Thank you for considering our viewpoint and we look forward to working with the legislature and Michigan's health organizations to come to a consensus that works for Michigan patients and professionals.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Henry, MD
MPS President

Vasilis Pozios, MD
MPS President-elect

Kathleen Gross
MPS Executive Director