REQUESTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR STUDY THE TRANSFER OF REGULATORY OVERSIGHT OF ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES TO THE ARKANSAS STATE MEDICAL BOARD.

WHEREAS, the training of an advanced practice registered nurse exceeds the education, training, and experience of registered nurses and licensed practical nurses; and

WHEREAS, advanced practice registered nurses hold prescriptive authority that is not held by registered nurses and licensed practical nurses; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas State Board of Nursing is currently composed of thirteen (13) members consisting of:

(1) One (1) consumer member;
(2) One (1) representative of the elderly;
(3) One (1) at large registered nurse or licensed practical nurse;
(4) Five (5) registered nurses;
(5) Three (3) licensed practical nurses; and
(6) Two (2) advanced practice registered nurses; and

WHEREAS, current Arkansas law requires only one (1) of the two (2) advanced practice registered nurses who serve as board members of the Arkansas State Board of Nursing to have prescriptive authority; and

WHEREAS, the majority of the Arkansas State Board of Nursing does not have the formal training and prescriptive certification to regulate advanced practice registered nurses with prescriptive authority; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Nurse Practitioner Association has advocated that advanced practice registered nurses be authorized to provide the same services as physicians; and
WHEREAS, physicians have prescriptive authority, are treated as primary care providers, and are regulated by the Arkansas State Medical Board; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas State Medical Board is currently composed of fourteen (14) members with twelve (12) of the members being physicians with prescriptive authority; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly should ensure that regulation of similar professions should be adequate and consistent,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT PROPOSED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR OF THE NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor study the transfer of regulatory oversight of advanced practice registered nurses from the Arkansas State Board of Nursing to the Arkansas State Medical Board

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Stephen Magie
District 72

By: JMB/JMB