

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2013-199

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3 REQUESTING THE INTERIM HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE,  
4 AND LABOR STUDY THE ROLE OF THE ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED  
5 NURSE.

6  
7 WHEREAS, the healthcare system in the United States and Arkansas is  
8 vastly changing and growing; and

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10 WHEREAS, the 2013 Arkansas General Assembly created Act 1948, known as  
11 the Healthcare Independence Act of 2013; and

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13 WHEREAS, through the Healthcare Independence Act, more than one hundred  
14 and ninety thousand (190,000) Arkansans have been approved and will gain  
15 insurance through the Private Option; and

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17 WHEREAS, Arkansas is experiencing a healthcare provider shortage  
18 resulting in medically underserved areas; and

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20 WHEREAS, the demand for healthcare services has outpaced the supply of  
21 providers, particularly primary care providers; and

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23 WHEREAS, Arkansas has over thirty-three thousand (33,000) Registered  
24 Nurses and two thousand three hundred seventy-six (2,376) Advanced Practice  
25 Registered Nurses; and

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27 WHEREAS, one thousand forty (1,040) Advanced Practice Registered Nurses  
28 have prescriptive authority; and

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30 WHEREAS, the Institute of Medicine's report, *The Future of Nursing:  
31 Leading, Change, Advancing Health* (2011), issued recommendations to ensure  
32 that Registered Nurses, particularly Advanced Practice Registered Nurses  
33 (APRNs), practice to the fullest extent of their licensure, accreditation,  
34 certification and education and perform as full partners in the redesign of  
35 healthcare in the U.S.; and

1           WHEREAS, the recommendations serve as a blueprint toward a healthcare  
2 system which provides patient-centered and evidence-based quality health care  
3 with improved health outcomes by utilizing the nation's largest healthcare  
4 workforce, nurses; and  
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6           WHEREAS, for the health of its citizens, the Arkansas General Assembly  
7 should pursue efforts to improve access to healthcare by utilizing the  
8 adaptive capacity of Registered Nurses, particularly Advanced Practice  
9 Registered Nurses, across the health care continuum; and  
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11           WHEREAS, the opportunity exists to more fully utilize Advanced Practice  
12 Registered Nurses in Arkansas' healthcare system;  
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14 NOW THEREFORE,

15 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE INTERIM HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE AND  
16 LABOR OF THE EIGHTY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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18           THAT the Interim House Committee On Public Health, Welfare, and Labor  
19 study models of care designed to improve health outcomes by utilizing  
20 Advanced Practice Registered Nurses to the fullest extent of their licensure,  
21 accreditation, certification and education.  
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23           BE IT FURTHER PROPOSED THAT, upon request, the Arkansas Nurses  
24 Association, with assistance from the Arkansas State Board of Nursing, shall  
25 provide assistance to the Interim House Committee on Public Health, Welfare,  
26 and Labor to perform this study.  
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28 Respectfully submitted,  
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32 Representative Kim Hammer  
33 District 28  
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36 By: MGF/KFW