

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2015-184

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3 REQUESTING THAT HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND  
4 LABOR STUDY ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES BY OTHER STATES TOWARDS THE  
5 FULL PRACTICE MODEL AND THE COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE AGREEMENTS OF  
6 ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES AND PHYSICIANS.  
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8 WHEREAS, the Institute of Medicine and the National Council of State  
9 Boards of Nursing recommend that states adopt a full practice model for  
10 advanced practice registered nurses; and  
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12 WHEREAS, a full practice model includes state practice and licensure  
13 laws that allow all advanced practice registered nurses to evaluate and  
14 diagnose patients, order and interpret diagnostic tests, and initiate and  
15 manage treatments, including the prescription of medications; and  
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17 WHEREAS, approximately twenty-one (21) states and the District of  
18 Columbia allow advanced practice registered nurses to practice and prescribe  
19 independently, or under the full practice model; and  
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21 WHEREAS, some states allow advanced practice registered nurses to have  
22 full prescriptive authority immediately upon passage of national or state  
23 examinations, while other states have a tiered, or stepped, approach; and  
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25 WHEREAS, as states move to a full practice model, states are creating  
26 formal advanced practice registered nurse residency programs similar to  
27 physician residency programs; and  
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29 WHEREAS, the first residency program for advanced practice registered  
30 nurses was started in 2007 at the Weitzman Center of the Community Health  
31 Center, Inc., of Connecticut, and since 2007, many states have implemented  
32 advanced practice registered nurse residency programs; and  
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34 WHEREAS, advanced practice registered nurses in the State of Arkansas  
35 must obtain a collaborative practice agreement with a physician to have  
36 prescriptive authority under Arkansas Code § 17-87-310; and

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WHEREAS, a collaborative practice agreement is a written plan that identifies a physician who agrees to collaborate with an advanced practice registered nurse in the joint management of the health care of the advanced practice registered nurse's patients and that outlines procedures for consultation with or referral to the collaborating physician or other healthcare professional as indicated by a patient's healthcare needs; and

WHEREAS, in the 2014-2015 annual report published by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing, Arkansas has two thousand three hundred eighty-two (2,382) advanced practice registered nurses; and

WHEREAS, only one thousand six hundred ninety-nine (1,699) advanced practice registered nurses have prescriptive authority; and

WHEREAS, if advanced practice registered nurses performed within a full practice model and were allowed to have full prescriptive authority, approximately six hundred eighty-three (683) individuals could enter into the healthcare system in Arkansas without additional training or fiscal impact upon the state; and

WHEREAS, according to a 2015 research report issued by the RAND Corporation, additional advanced practice registered nurses with full prescriptive authority could help increase healthcare access, reduce healthcare costs, and promote efficient and timely health care across the state, particularly in medically underserved areas; and

WHEREAS, since the 1960s, studies have found no difference in health outcomes, including patient health status, number of prescriptions written, return visits requested, or referral to other providers, of care delivered by an advanced practice registered nurse or physician, according to a 2010 report by the Center to Champion Nursing in America; and

WHEREAS, a residency program for advanced practice registered nurses could begin to close the gap between being a student and being a primary care provider by allowing advanced practice registered nurses to gain more

1 experience prior to practicing without supervision under a full practice  
2 model; and  
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4 WHEREAS, the General Assembly should pursue efforts to improve  
5 healthcare access by utilizing existing healthcare professionals, such as  
6 advanced practice registered nurses, to the fullest extent possible,  
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8 NOW THEREFORE,

9 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR OF  
10 THE NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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12 THAT the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor study  
13 alternative approaches by other states towards the full practice model and  
14 the collaborative practice agreements of advanced practice registered nurses  
15 and physicians or other healthcare professionals.  
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17 BE IT FURTHER PROPOSED THAT, upon request, the Arkansas Nurses  
18 Association and the Arkansas State Board of Nursing shall provide assistance  
19 to the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor to perform this  
20 study.  
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22 Respectfully submitted,  
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26 Representative Dan Sullivan  
27 District 53  
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31 Representative Justin Gonzales  
32 District 19  
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35 By: JMB/JMB  
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