

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2007-238

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3 REQUESTING THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE
4 AND LABOR AND THE SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH,
5 WELFARE AND LABOR STUDY THE EFFECTS OF REMOVING THE COLLABORATIVE
6 AGREEMENT REQUIREMENT FOR ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSES.

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8 WHEREAS, under current Arkansas law, an advanced practice nurse may be
9 granted a certificate of prescriptive authority only if the nurse has a
10 collaborative practice agreement with an Arkansas physician who has a
11 practice comparable in scope, specialty, or expertise to that of the advanced
12 practice nurse; and

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14 WHEREAS, the requirement for collaborative agreements may limit the
15 availability of advanced practice nurses in the state, particularly in
16 medically underserved areas; and

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18 WHEREAS, 14 states (Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Maine,
19 Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, and
20 Vermont) and the District of Columbia authorize advanced practice nurses to
21 practice without a collaborative agreement; and

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23 WHEREAS, Arkansas has consistently ranked among the least healthy
24 states in the nation; and

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26 WHEREAS, many Arkansans who cannot find or afford primary care from a
27 physician must seek their primary health care through hospital emergency
28 rooms, a method which is both more expensive and less efficient than office
29 visits; and

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31 WHEREAS, expanded opportunities for primary health care by advanced
32 practice nurses could reduce the costs of health care and increase
33 preventative care opportunities while maintaining the safety and efficacy of
34 health care in this state,

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36 NOW THEREFORE,

1 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE AND
2 LABOR OF THE EIGHTY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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4 THAT the House Interim Committee On Public Health, Welfare And Labor
5 and the Senate Interim Committee On Public Health, Welfare And Labor study
6 the effects of removing the collaborative agreement requirement for advanced
7 practice nurses.

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9 Respectfully submitted,

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13 Representative Sandra Prater
14 District 42

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19 Representative Clark Hall
20 District 13

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36 Filed Date: 10/01/2008 By: MGF/ksw