

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2015-186

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3 REQUESTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND  
4 LABOR STUDY THE USE OF GLOBAL SIGNATURE AUTHORITY FOR AN ADVANCED  
5 PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE IN OTHER STATES.  
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7 WHEREAS, global signature authority is the authorization to allow  
8 certain healthcare professionals to sign or otherwise complete forms related  
9 to patient care within their scope of practice; and  
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11 WHEREAS, some examples of the forms related to patient care are:

12 (1) Providing certification of disability for patients to  
13 receive disabled parking placards;

14 (2) Signing off on physicals for student athletes or school bus  
15 drivers;

16 (3) Signing forms related to end-of-life care;

17 (4) Signing forms excusing a potential jury member due to  
18 illness;

19 (5) Signing worker's compensation forms for employees injured on  
20 the job; and

21 (6) Signing valid information certificates such as birth  
22 certificates and death certificates; and  
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24 WHEREAS, dozens of forms relating to the daily provision of care for a  
25 patient may need to be signed to ensure the fulfillment of orders, referrals,  
26 or recognition of care by various entities; and  
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28 WHEREAS, some state laws may prohibit governmental entities or private  
29 companies from recognizing the signature of an advanced practice registered  
30 nurse by limiting the signature to only physicians; and  
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32 WHEREAS, twelve (12) states (Colorado, Georgia, Hawaii, Maine,  
33 Massachusetts, New Mexico, North Carolina, Rhoda Island, Vermont, Virginia,  
34 Washington, and West Virginia) have enacted global signature authority; and  
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1           WHEREAS, other states have recognized the ability of an advanced  
2 practice registered nurse to sign all state forms within his or her scope of  
3 practice by including advanced practice registered nurses in each relevant  
4 statute or rule; and  
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6           WHEREAS, the State of Arkansas requires both an advanced practice  
7 registered nurse and a collaborating physician to sign forms that reflect the  
8 care that the advanced practice registered nurse has provided; and  
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10           WHEREAS, the additional requirement can create significant delays in  
11 patient care and cause unnecessary costs on follow-up visits for the  
12 completion of the forms; and  
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14           WHEREAS, global signature authority legislation helps promote:

15                   (1) Transparency and accountability by allowing documentation to  
16 reflect the patient-provider relationship;

17                   (2) Efficacy for patients as care delivery and form completion  
18 can be addressed in the same visit; and

19                   (3) Productive use of healthcare workforce by eliminating the  
20 need for involvement of two (2) healthcare professionals to sign, stamp,  
21 certify, or endorse one (1) patient's forms; and  
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23           WHEREAS, the General Assembly should pursue efforts to improve  
24 healthcare access by allowing advanced practice registered nurses to have  
25 global signature authority,  
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27 NOW THEREFORE,

28 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR OF  
29 THE NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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31           THAT the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor study the  
32 use of global signature authority for an advanced practice registered nurse  
33 in other states.  
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1           BE IT FURTHER PROPOSED THAT, upon request, the Arkansas State Board of  
2 Nursing and the Department of Health shall provide assistance to the House  
3 Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor to perform this study.

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5 Respectfully submitted,

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9 Representative Mary Bentley  
10 District 73

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13 By: JMB/JMB  
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