



**For Immediate Release**

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**WNA and WIACNS Disappointed with Governor Evers Veto of APRN Licensure Bill**

The Wisconsin Nurses Association (WNA) and the Wisconsin Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists (WIACNS) want to share our disappointment over Governor Evers' veto of the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Licensure Bill SB 145. This action not only prevents the licensure of over 8,000 Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, but also delays the opportunity to improve access to care for many people across Wisconsin. In the 27 states that allow APRN independent practice, APRNs have stepped forward to open their practice to meet the healthcare needs of rural and underserved populations.

The licensure of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses is important to Wisconsinites as it requires the licensee to graduate from an accredited advanced nursing education program with a master's degree or higher, hold national board certification, and maintain the highest quality standards, all while staying within their statutory scope of practice. There are other qualifying criteria in the bill that require oversight under the Wisconsin Board of Nursing. The areas of licensure are for Certified Nurse Midwife, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist, Clinical Nurse Specialist and Nurse Practitioner.

There are APRNs willing to open their own practice to improve access to care for the people of Wisconsin. Our rural areas and those areas of the state where there are high numbers of at-risk populations would benefit from the healthcare services provided by APRNs. Unfortunately, these APRNs need a written collaboration agreement with a physician to practice. There are not enough physicians to be a collaborator or if there is interest by the physician, it comes at a cost to the APRN practice.

"WNA and the nurses of Wisconsin will continue to educate policy makers on the benefits of APRN licensure and independent practice. We are confident that there is a pathway to success on this bill that will be acceptable to all parties. The healthcare workforce needs of Wisconsin necessitate innovations like this bill. Nurses are tough; we will be back again next session to continue our work." states Gina Dennik-Champion, WNA Executive Director.

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