

PHYSICIAN VOICES FOR PATIENT SAFETY



“

DC Residents deserve access to proper medical care from professionals with the right knowledge and experience to ensure appropriate diagnosis and treatment.



FACTS

Opposition to the Bill is Overwhelming

88% of DC physicians* oppose the bill

*According to a Pulse Survey conducted by MSDC and Coalition members in March 2024 among physicians licensed to practice in Washington, DC



Physicians spend significant amount of time in education and training should remain at the center of patient care.

CONCERNS ABOUT ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE SCOPE OF PRACTICE CHANGES

The Medical Society of the District of Columbia (MSDC) is leading a coalition of DC-based specialty medical societies to advocate to amend the DC Health Occupations Revisions General Amendment Act of 2023 (B25-545), proposed by the DC Committee on Health in November 2023.

This bill is a comprehensive rewrite of the law overseeing medical licensing and regulation in Washington, DC. Unfortunately, the bill as written would overhaul scope of practice, place allied health professionals in oversight positions of medical licensing and remove the physician from the center of the care team.

The bill would codify that Advanced Practice Registered Nurses could independently diagnose, prescribe, and administer medicine. Independent Advanced Certified Nurse Practitioners should have a defined scope of practice limited to the following functions:

1. Practice only in the field of certification.
2. Comprehensive physical assessment of patients.
3. Complete date of birth and medical information on a birth certificate.
4. Establish medical diagnosis of common short-term and chronic stable health problems.
5. Issue a “do not resuscitate order” in medical emergencies.
6. Order, perform, and interpret laboratory and diagnostic tests.
7. Prescribe drugs and devices under DC controlled substance Schedules II-V with a valid DEA license, and medical marijuana under DC laws.
8. Provide emergency care within the scope of their skills.
9. Refer patients to appropriate licensed physicians or other health care providers.



EXPERIENCE & EDUCATION	PHYSICIAN (M.D./D.O)	PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT	CRNA	NURSE PRACTITIONER	PHARMACISTS
Length of Graduate Level Education	4 Years	2 - 2.5 Years	2 - 3 Years	2 - 4 Years	4 Years
Years in Residency/ Fellowship	3 - 7 Years	None	None	None	None
Total Patient Care Hours Required Through Training	12,000 - 16,000 Hours	2,500 Hours	2,000 Hours	500 - 700 Hours	1,740 Hours



The DC Health Occupations Revisions General Amendment Act of 2023 is a misguided attempt to address access to care. DC residents deserve proper care that would not compromise their safety as well as professional standards.