



APRN ROUNDTABLE **INSIGHTS FOR IMPACT**

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Legislative Update

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APRN ROUNDTABLE
INSIGHTS FOR IMPACT



National Policy Environment

- Rural Health Transformation Program
- Improving Care and Access to Nurses (ICAN) Act
- Title VIII Reauthorization



Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP)

- H.R. 1, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act –tax and domestic spending priorities
- 5-year \$50B program
- Administered by CMS
- Application process
 - Current policy environment
 - Policy commitments



RHTP APRN Provisions

- **State Policy Action:** CNP Scope of Practice
 - Measurement: AANP State Practice Map
- **Initiative-Based Scoring:** Population Health Clinical Infrastructure
 - Policies include expanded SOP for “mid-level practitioners”



RHTP State Policy

- **CMS funds awarded:** NJ & TN
- **Supportive language:** Missouri
- **2026 Legislative Session:**
 - Florida HB 693: Big Beautiful Healthcare Frontier Act
 - Strategic defense



Improving Care and Access to Nurses (I CAN) Act

H.R. 1317/S. 575

- Removes barriers to APRN care under the Medicare and Medicaid programs
- **For NPs** the bill authorizes NPs to order cardiac and pulmonary rehab services, certify for diabetic shoes, and makes permanent the authorization of Medicare and Medicaid patients admitted to a hospital to be under the care of an NP
- **For CRNAs** removes physician supervision requirements for CRNAs under Medicare
- **For CNMs** certify Medicare patients for home health as well as issue prescriptions for durable medical equipment



Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act H.R. 3593/S. 1874

- Reauthorize Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs through FY 2030 (last reauth 2020)
- **Largest source of dedicated federal funding for nursing education and workforce development.**
- **Advanced Nursing Education Workforce Program**
 - Support primary care CNP + CNS, and CNM education programs.



State Legislation

- Utah: RN Experience requirements
- New Jersey: COVID-19 waivers
- Missouri: Practice of medicine



Utah: RN Experience Requirements

- Office of Professional Licensure Review (OPLR)
- Recommendation: CNP RN experience hour requirement
- Senate Bill 31 *as introduced**
 - Requires applicants for CNP licensure to have 6,000 hours of RN clinical experience
 - Reduces PA transition hours to 8,500
 - Grants CRNAs prescriptive authority



RN Experience Hour Policy

- **Alabama:** November 2025 - BON rule requiring 3,000 RN clinical practice hours for CNP and CNM licensure
- **Wisconsin:** APRN Modernization Act (enacted) 3,840 RN experience hour requirement for independent practice, inclusive of RN program clinicals



New Jersey: COVID-19 Era Waivers

- **March 9, 2020** – NJ State of Emergency/Public Health Emergency
 - **April 1, 2020** – Waived joint protocol agreements
- **January 16, 2026** – EO 415 terminates State of Emergency on February 16, 2026 (@ 5pm)
- Governor Sherrill extended the waiver through April 2, 2026*



COVID-19 Era Waivers

- Executive, legislative, regulatory waivers
 - Broad spectrum
- JNR Study*
 - Evaluation of disciplinary records across 27 states
 - No evidence of an uptick in APRN discipline cases
 - >16,500 APRN survey
 - “APRNs practicing in private outpatient clinics, in rural areas, and in health provider shortage areas were more likely to report a positive effect of the practice waiver”

*Martin, B., Buck, M., Zhong, E. (2023, April). Evaluating the Impact of EOs Lifting Restrictions on APRNs During the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Journal of Nursing Regulation*. (14)(1).



New Jersey legislation SB 2996 / AB 4052

- As Introduced:
 - Eliminate joint protocol agreement after 24 months or 2,400 hours
 - Transition to practice period with physician or APRN collaborator
- Senate Committee hearing in February
- Urgency:
 - April 2nd deadline
 - RHTP funds awarded



Missouri: Practice of Medicine

2026 Session:

- Better Access Better Care Coalition
 - Eliminates collaborative practice agreement requirements for CNPs, CNMs, and CNSs
- CRNA legislation
 - Enables CRNAs to order, select and administer CS II-V for and during anesthesia care
- March hearings in Senate Emerging Issues and Professional Registration Committee



Retaliatory Legislation

- Title Protection
- Shifting Regulatory Authority
- **Practice of Medicine**
 - MO Senator Justin Brown, Chair of Emerging Issues and Professional Registration Committee filed SB 1672



“2. Nothing contained in this section shall prohibit a licensed professional from performing some or all of the activities that may fall within the practice of medicine, but only so long as the licensed professional is acting within and not beyond the scope of his or her statutory authority
and only so long as the physician remains actively involved in the practice of medicine for each patient and remains the primary and responsible party for the examination, evaluation, diagnosis, and determination of appropriate treatment or surgery...”

Missouri SB 1672



Closing and Q&A

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