

HCS HB 1502 -- ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES

SPONSOR: Kelly (141)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 9 to 2.

This requires advanced practice nurses (APRNs) be licensed by the Missouri Board of Nursing and sets out the requirements for that licensure. The bill states that a licensee's APRN license and his or her professional nursing license shall be treated as one license for the purpose of renewal and fees.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that only 30% of the people in this state have adequate access to primary care and all 114 counties have mental health provider shortages. This bill would expand access to care. Supporters say that 23 states already have full practice authority for APRNs.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Kelly; Kathryn Barter; Margaret Benz; Bruce Fletcher, Prairie Mental Health; Janet Fletcher, Prairie Mental Health Services; Elizabeth Cook, DNP, CNM, WHUMP-BC, CPM; Missouri Family Health Council; Missouri Nurses Association; BJC Health Care; Julia Biayi; Aleisha Breen; Diane E. Utz; Carla Beckerle; Marcia Flesner; Cathy Murray; Wendy Dale Tunnell; Michelle Burk; Karen Seaghone; Marcy Markes, APRN; Laura L. Kuensting; Jen Bersdale, Missouri Healthcare for All; Jeffrey Mormol, MD; Jessica Henman, CNM, CPM, APRN, American College of Nurse Midwives; Valerie Kolster; Patricia Gawf Garcia, APRN, FNP, BC, Missouri Nurse Practitioner Association; Marti Cowherd, APRN, FNP, PPCNP, Missouri Nurse Association, Association of Missouri Nurse Practitioners; and Jessica Whelan, Jessica Whelan LLC.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that collaboration with physicians is necessary to ensure that patients are getting quality health care. APRNs are not a substitute for physicians, they do not have the same education and training. Opponents also think that APRNs should be supervised by the Board of Healing Arts, which supervises other health care practitioners who provide similar services.

Testifying against the bill were Missouri Society of Anesthesiologists; American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists-Missouri Section; Michael Brown, Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons; Missouri State Medical Association; Kara Braudis; and Elizabeth Mukherjee.