



Florida Coalition of Advanced Practice Nurses

A consortium of supporting organizations working together as one united voice for better healthcare
www.FLCAPN.enpnetwork.com

March 23, 2020

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Office of Governor
State of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

RE: Lift APRN Practice Restrictions Now to Fully Assist with Florida's COVID-19 Crisis

Dear Governor DeSantis:

Thank you for your leadership as our state navigates the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As Florida and the rest of the nation face this uncertainty surrounding the pandemic, our state's 35,000+ Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN's) are serving on the front lines and stand ready to do more to help. APRN's are working to ensure that the need for ongoing care is met in our communities but can do more if we were not restricted by mandatory supervision under a physician or dentist so to be available to work in areas where we are most needed now.

The APRN coalition urges you to create an exemption or executive order to immediately remove the BON statutory requirement for supervisory protocols under a physician or dentist as a mandate for us to work. All APRNs are educated and prepared to provide patient care in accordance with their national certification required for licensure. APRNs evaluate patients, make diagnoses, order, perform, and interpret diagnostic tests and initiate and manage treatments. APRNs independently make decisions for prescribing medications and controlled substances when needed. We coordinate the care and provide counseling and education to patients, families, and communities. We make appropriate referrals when the condition warrants higher level of care. Nearly half of the U.S. States, the District of Columbia, the U.S. territories, the Veterans Hospital Administration and the Indian Health Services authorizes APRN's to directly provide these services independently. At this critical time, our communities cannot wait for the rulemaking of CS/HB 607 to be enacted only for primary care NPs. Today, APRN's are not able to fully help save lives with outdated regulations that bottlenecks our willing and capable workforce. By removing restrictions now, all APRNs will be able to be placed into service immediately to care for the many more thousands of Floridians that will contract COVID-19 and will no doubt need continued care.

Thank you for your strong leadership and quick response on behalf of all Florida. APRN's are committed to serving and are able to do more now with your help. Should you have any questions or need any assistance please do not hesitate to contact the Florida Coalition of Advanced Practice Nurses.

Vernon M. Langford MSN, APRN, FNP-C
Co-Chair of FLCAPN/ Vernon.Langford@gmail.com

Jean Aertker, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, COHN-S, FAANP
Co-Chair of FLCAPN / DrAertker@gmail.com