



FLORIDIANS UNITE FOR HEALTH CARE

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‘Floridians Unite for Health Care’ Applauds Florida House for Passing Legislation to Allow Full Practice Authority for APRNs

Tallahassee, Fla. – ‘Floridians Unite for Health Care’ coalition today applauded the Florida House of Representatives for passing House Bill 607, by Representative Cary Pigman, M.D. (R-Avon Park), relating to Health Care Practitioners, out of its chamber earlier today. HB 607 would allow Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) in Florida to practice to the full extent of their education and training.

A number of Florida voices came out in support of the Florida House for adopting HB 607, a measure that has received the support of House Speaker Jose Oliva (R-Miami).

Nicole Livanos, senior associate in state advocacy and legislative affairs for the National Council of State Boards of Nursing and spokesperson for the ‘Floridians Unite for Health Care’ coalition, said: “On behalf of the ‘Floridians Unite for Health Care’ coalition, we thank the members of the Florida House for passing legislation today that will address the need for more health care providers in the Sunshine State. This good public policy will provide more Floridians with access to safe and quality care by removing the barriers to allow APRNs to practice to the full extent of their education and training. In Florida, we have more than 32,000 licensed APRNs who are ready to roll up their sleeves and help increase access to care for all, but especially in our state’s 30 rural communities that have a shortage of health care professionals. We applaud the Florida House, House Speaker Oliva and Representative Pigman for their support of this good bill.”

Crystal Stickle, interim president for the Florida Hospital Association, said: “The Florida Hospital Association applauds the Florida House of Representative’s passage of critical legislation to increase access to health care providers in rural and underserved communities. We deeply appreciate Speaker José Oliva’s leadership, and we are proud to stand with Representatives Josie Tomkow and Cary Pigman in support of House Bills 7053 and 607. This legislation is a shining example of innovative, forward-thinking ideas that will increase Floridians’ access to the high-quality care they need.”

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Mark Wilson, president and CEO of the Florida Chamber of Commerce, said: “With 900 new residents moving to Florida every day, and 4.5 million more residents expected to call Florida home by 2030, Floridians need greater access to health care, particularly in rural and underserved communities. Thank you, Representative Cary Pigman, for your leadership and helping provide greater access to safe, quality health care.”

Jose Castillo III PhD, MS, CRNA, APRN, president of the Florida Association of Nurse Anesthetists, said: “On behalf of more than 5,400 Florida CRNAs we thank Speaker Oliva, Representative Pigman and the Florida House for passing out this good bill that will remove barriers for APRNs, including CRNAs, and allow them to practice to the full extent of their education and training without physician supervision. Passage of this bill demonstrates the strong first steps Florida is taking to modernize the way health care is being delivered in our state by ensuring that Floridians have full access to health care, particularly in rural areas that are often underserved.”

Brewster Bevis, senior vice president of state and federal affairs of the Associated Industries of Florida, said: “AIF applauds the Florida House, House Speaker Oliva and Representative Pigman for passing HB 607 out of its chamber today. This good bill has the ability to unlock health care savings estimated between \$968 million to \$9.5 billion and have a positive impact on Florida’s economy to the tune of \$1 billion in estimated increase wages and new job creation. With this legislation, Florida has the opportunity to improve the overall health of our Florida families and businesses.”

Arlene Wright, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, FNAP, president of Florida Nurse Practitioners Network, said: “We are excited the Florida House passed legislation that would increase the access to health care for millions of Floridians. By removing state-mandated licensure restrictions, APRNs will be able to supplement health care options for patients and provide specialty services for patients across the state. On behalf of the FNP, we would like to thank the members of the House, Speaker Oliva, and Representative Pigman for their support of our profession and for recognizing the need to modernize the way we do health care in Florida.”

Vernon Langford, president of the Florida Association of Nurse Practitioners, said: "We applaud House Speaker Jose Oliva and Representative Cary Pigman for passage of HB 607, which will remove restrictions that prevent APRNs from practicing to the full extent of their education and training. This meaningful legislation is an important step forward in health care reform that will reduce costs and increase access to health care for all Floridians. We hope the Senate sees the benefits of this bill and follows the House's lead, moving the bill on to Governor Ron DeSantis."

Floridians Unite for Health Care is a newly formed coalition made up of several nursing organizations, including the [Florida Association of Nurse Anesthetists \(FANA\)](#), [Florida Association of Nurse Practitioners \(FLANP\)](#), [Florida Coalition of Advanced Practice Nurses \(FLCAPN\)](#), [Florida Nurses Association \(FNA\)](#), [Florida Nurse Practitioner Network \(FNP\)](#), and the [National Council of State Boards of Nursing \(NCSBN\)](#); members of the business, health care, and insurance

community, including the [Associated Industries of Florida \(AIF\)](#), [Braeburn](#), [Florida Academy of Physician Assistants \(FAPA\)](#), [Florida Association of Health Plans \(FAHP\)](#), [Florida Association of Health Underwriters](#), [Florida Association of Professional Employer Organizations \(FAPEO\)](#), [Florida Blue](#), [Florida Chamber of Commerce](#), [Florida Health Care Association \(FHCA\)](#), [Florida Hospital Association \(FHA\)](#), [Florida Insurance Council \(FIC\)](#), [Florida Retail Federation \(FRF\)](#), [UnitedHealth Group](#), and [WellCare](#); as well as political advocacy groups, including the [Americans for Prosperity-Florida \(AFP-FL\)](#).

For more information on the Floridians Unite for Health Care coalition, please visit FloridiansUniteforHealthCare.com.

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