

Key Legislative Message Points

- As policymakers seek new ways to ensure access to timely, cost-effective and quality primary care services, it is critical to modernize outdated practice laws that prevent NPs from providing care at the top of their education and skill.
- While there is no single solution that will solve all of our nation's health care challenges, modernizing NP practice laws is a critical piece that can be implemented today and make a tangible difference - especially for Americans in underserved areas.
- AANP is not seeking to expand the NP role. We are working to ensure that all Americans, regardless of where they choose to live, have full access to the broad set of healthcare services NPs are educated and equipped to provide.
- AANP does not believe that geographic location should determine the patients' access to care. That is why we are working with state and federal policymakers to remove outdated, sometimes decades old, language in our healthcare laws.
- The current patchwork and irregularities in healthcare laws limit our nation's ability to get the maximum benefit from our healthcare workforce. Despite nearly half a century of safe, quality care, only one-third of states allow patients full access to a provider of their choice and full NP services. These states are Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Montana, Oregon, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, Wyoming, and the District of Columbia.
- The updates we advocate are consistent with recommendations from entities such as the Institute of Medicine Future of Nursing Report, the Macy Foundation, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, and the National Health Policy Forum.