

Letter: Nurse practitioners can play a key role

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Editor:

Pennsylvania's population is aging. The inevitable result is that a growing number of people are in need of quality and accessible health care. Unless lawmakers act, seniors will bear the brunt of the looming provider shortage.

As an adult-geriatric nurse practitioner, I see how senior citizens benefit from reliable access to care. Patients who have help managing their chronic conditions stay healthier and avoid hospital visits. Unfortunately, I also see what happens when they don't get the health care they need.

Some have denied there is a problem at all ("Nurse practitioners no match for doctors," Reading Eagle, April 2). But a recent state commission estimated that Pennsylvania faces a shortage of more than 1,000 physicians. The same report said nurse practitioners would help alleviate the shortage.

Thankfully, AARP Pennsylvania has endorsed one answer to this problem: modernizing state law to give nurse practitioners like me the ability to better serve our patients. Senate Bill 25 and House Bill 100 would cut the red tape between seniors and their health care.

No one in Pennsylvania of any age should have to wait for health care when nurse practitioners are able to help. We are ready to care for Pennsylvania, especially our seniors.

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