

## **Senate panel endorses full practice for nurse practitioners**

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The state Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee approved a bill today that would remove state barriers that prevent advanced practice registered nurses from offering a wider variety of services to patients.

Senate Bill 25, sponsored by state Sen. Camera Bartolotta, R-Carroll Township, would modernize the professional nursing law to permit qualified APRNs to practice in their field of specialty independent of a physician after they fulfill a three-year, 3,600-hour collaboration agreement with a doctor.

“Many rural communities are suffering from a severe shortage of doctors, and the expansion of Medicaid has created an even larger patient population for a dwindling number of physicians,” Bartolotta said. Nearly 35 percent of Pennsylvanians live in an area or population group that has inadequate primary care access.

Twenty-two states and Washington, D.C. have already adopted full practice authority for APRNs. The Senate approved legislation similar to Bartolotta’s during the 2015-16 Legislative Session.