Pennsylvania Nurse Practitioners Call for Full Practice Authority

Launch New Campaign to help meet workforce crisis in primary care

PHILADELPHIA, November 12, 2013—The Pennsylvania Coalition of Nurse Practitioners, one of the country’s largest associations of Nurse Practitioners, has announced the unanimous endorsement of legislation that would give Pennsylvania’s 8,500 Nurse Practitioners Full Practice Authority. The resolution endorsing SB 1063 was passed at the Coalition’s annual conference held this weekend in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

“This is about putting our patients first,” said Lorraine Bock (add credentials), president of the Pennsylvania Coalition of Nurse Practitioners. “Passing this bill will allow patients access to more primary care providers of their choice, receiving outcome proven, excellent care, at lower costs,” concluded Bock.

At the conference, the organization unveiled the launch of their, “Nurse Practitioners Putting Patients First” campaign. “We will encourage our members, on behalf of their patients, to ask their legislators to support efforts to meet the needs of patients, by offering excellent care with more choice at lower costs,” said Bock. “That’s what Senate Bill 1063 really does.”

The bill is part of a national effort in which 18 states have passed Full Practice Authority, allowing nationally certified and State licensed NP’s to practice without the burdensome and costly mandated oversight of another health care professional. The measure would remove the requirement that a nurse practitioner have two doctors as formal, paid collaborators. It would also enable health insurance companies to recognize Nurse Practitioners.
“We have heard story after story from our members who have had to stop seeing patients because they could not find a doctor to collaborate with,” said Sue Schrand (credentials), Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Coalition of Nurse Practitioners. “Whether it’s in Oil City, Lancaster, Carlisle or urban areas like Philadelphia, many patients are being denied services because our Nurse Practitioners can’t find doctors to collaborate with due to the shortage of primary care doctors,” concluded Schrand.

ABOUT NURSE PRACTITIONERS

Nurse Practitioners are health care professionals who hold a masters degree in nursing with most now having a Doctoral degree in Nurse Practitioner (DNP). Each holds thousands of hours of clinical training, are nationally certified and state licensed. NP’s in Pennsylvania are granted a broad scope of practice including prescribing medicine, ordering tests, referring patients and managing chronic diseases.

Facts about nurse practitioners include:
* In Pennsylvania there are more than 220,000 registered nurses and 8,500 Nurse Practitioners.
* According to the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, NP’s are the fastest growing careers in health care.
* According to the Kaiser Family Foundation there are more than 180,000 Nurse Practitioners in the Country and will grow to exceed 200,000 in the next several years.
* According to the Pennsylvania Department of Health, of the 5,000 primary care doctors in the State, a quarter are anticipated to leave the practice by 2015 making an already bad crisis worse.

ABOUT PENNSYLVANIA COALITION OF NURSE PRACTITIONERS

PCNP is an organization that promotes and protects the practice of over 8,500 Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners (CRNPs) in Pennsylvania. Formed in the 1980’s by three forward thinking NPs, PCNP now has 18 Regional groups and over 1,500 members. For more information and a full press kit with contact information for sources, please go to www.pacnp.org

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