



Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging
Advocacy. Action. Answers on Aging.

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The Honorable Derek Merrin
Chair, House Health Committee
77 South High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: HB 177 – Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs)

Dear Chairman Merrin:

I write on behalf of the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging in support of HB 177, which would remove the requirement that an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) sign a contract or “standard care arrangement” (SCA) with physicians in order to practice in Ohio. The standard care arrangement does not improve care; instead it places barriers that limit the access to health care in underserved areas.

The Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging is a nonprofit, statewide network of agencies that provide services for older Ohioans, people with disabilities and their families. Ohio’s Area Agencies on Aging are part of a national network of over 600 on-the-ground organizations in each state, mandated by the Older Americans Act, and charged with helping Americans thrive in our homes and communities as we age. We are mission-driven primarily not-for-profit organizations that operate a complex service delivery system that provides access to community-based, in-home and elder rights services to 300,000 older Ohioans and people with disabilities.

APRNs play a vital role in the delivery of health care services to older Ohioans across Ohio. Many individuals served by Ohio’s AAAs rely on APRNs for primary health care services, wellness education, immunizations, and other life-saving services. HB 177 will remove barriers to expanding access to critical, affordable health care, especially in underserved low income and rural areas. As we live longer lives, and more of us are aging (Ohio’s Longevity Era), the need for access to quality health care will continue to grow. APRNs can play a vital part in a continuum of care as we age – from home, to health care settings, to the hospital, and nursing facilities.

We urge support for HB 177 to increase patient access to care, promote the appropriate use of APRNs in health care delivery, and decrease the cost of health care while maintaining high standards for the quality of patient care.

Sincerely,

Larke Recchie
CEO