



April 19, 2024

The Honorable Angelique Ashby, Chair
 Senate Committee on Business, Professions & Economic Development
 1021 O Street, Suite 3320
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Ashby,

On behalf of [Close the Provider Gap](#) and the undersigned organizations, we thank you for including language in SB 1451 that will allow the Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) to recognize “legacy certifications” for California’s most experienced nurse practitioners (NPs). We are grateful for your leadership in addressing this barrier to full implementation of AB 890 (Wood, Chapter 265, Statutes of 2020) that has prevented NPs from expanding access to care as intended by the law.

California is the largest and most diverse state in the nation, yet we have a severe health care provider gap, particularly among primary care and behavioral health providers. More than 11 million Californians – one-quarter of the state’s population – live in a federally designated Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Area, and two-thirds of them are people of color.

NPs are critical to addressing these shortages – not only do they accept greater numbers of uninsured, Medi-Cal, and Medicare patients compared to physicians, but NPs are also more likely to work in rural and underserved communities.

That’s why this coalition of consumer and professional organizations supported AB 890 (2020 Wood) to allow highly qualified and experienced NPs to practice to the full extent of their education, certification, and training. However, since that time, implementation barriers have

delayed the application process for NPs who are qualified and seeking to be recognized to work without physician supervision.

To address the urgent health needs of our state in a sustainable and equitable manner, we must ensure NPs are able to close the provider gap. By providing clarifying guidance surrounding legacy certifications, SB 1451 will help streamline the application process and enable California's most experienced NPs to expand access to quality, affordable care.

We must close the provider gap – the Californians we serve don't have the time to wait any longer. Through SB 1451, we can ensure our state's communities and families – especially those in health care deserts – can access the high-quality, timely care they need and deserve.

Sincerely,

Close the Provider Gap

www.closetheprovidergap.org

American Nurses Association\California
Bay Area Cancer Connections
Bay Area Council
California Access Coalition
California Association for Nurse Practitioners (CANP)
California Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives, Inc (CAADPE)
California Association of Nurse Anesthesiology (CANA)
California Black Health Network
California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals (CCAPP)
California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies (CCCBHA)
California Hepatitis C Task Force
California Hospital Association
LeadingAge California
Liver Coalition
Looms for Lupus
Madera Community Hospital
Michelle's Place Cancer Resource Center
Patient Advocates United in San Diego County
SEIU California State Council
Sickle Cell Disease Foundation

CC: Members, Senate Committee on Business, Professions & Economic Development
Committee Staff Director, Sarah Mason