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STATE: SENATORS SAY THEY AREN'T HEARING FROM PHYSICIANS ON NURSE SCOPE

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Action Alert



STATE: Senators Say They Aren't Hearing from Physicians on Nurse Scope

May 6 - MSMS is advocating tirelessly at the Capitol on [Senate Bill 2](#), but senators are telling us that they're not hearing from individual physicians on the issue. The bill aims to change the Public Health Code to allow a sweeping expansion of scope of practice for advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs).

The Senate Committee on Reforms, Restructuring & Reinventing recently passed SB 2, introduced by Committee Chair **Sen. Mark Jansen** (R-Grand Rapids). This dangerous bill aims to change the Public Health Code to allow APRNs to perform certain medical and even surgical procedures, as well as prescribing duties, without any physician supervision or oversight.

The bill moved to the Senate floor, and unless senators hear from more physicians—and other friends of medicine—there's a good chance they will pass it. Urge your colleagues, spouses, office managers, and others to contact senators, too!

1) MAKE A CALL - Legislators need to know that the best person to lead the health care team is the person with the most extensive education and training who can ensure the highest quality of care and safety for patients—the physician.

2) SEND AN ELECTRONIC MESSAGE - (Scroll down to use the prewritten message.) It's time to tell them that scope of practice expansions should come through education and training and NOT through legislative means ("Educate, Don't Legislate").

An example of what we're up against:

"The object of team care is that the head of the team is the best person for the issue you're trying to address. That may not be a

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physician. It may not be a nurse. It may be a physical therapist."
-Nancy George, President, Michigan Council of Nurse Practitioners
(Gongwer, April 17, 2013)

MSMS House Speaker **Rose M. Ramirez, MD**, a Kent County family physician and former nurse, testified at the Committee hearing in opposition of the bill. "As physicians, our overarching concern is with the well-being of our patients and that the laws and regulations of Michigan lead to health care that is safe, efficient, and of the highest quality," she said. "More professionals doesn't necessarily lead to better care. More coordination of care and true collaboration among all health professions *does* lead to better care."

Why lawmakers should preserve Michigan's partnership in patient care:

- Laws in Michigan already allow advance practice nurses to prescribe medications with physicians' supervision and delegation.
- Education and training--not legislation and law--should determine the scope of a health care professional's practice.
- In preserving the patient care partnership, Michigan stands with 40 other states in maintaining oversight and protection of people in the care of a doctor and nurse.
- Changing our current law would not improve access to, quality of or cost of care in Michigan... three goals doctors and nurses share.
- Reducing educational requirements for those who prescribe medicine puts patient health at risk, something doctors and nurses across Michigan work every day to prevent.
- Extensive pharmacology training is integrated into every component of a physician's education, an intensity and level of training not part of an advance practice nurse's education.

FAST FACTS:

- **Physicians work a minimum of 11 years in education and training** including four years of college, four years of medical school and three to five years of hands-on residency training. Some physicians train for up to 20 years, depending on their specialty.
- For the treatment and care provided by nurses, many fewer years of medical education and training are required. **For nurses with the most advanced training, six years of education are completed.**

For more information, contact Colin Ford at MSMS at 517-336-5737 or cford@msms.org.

Take Action

1 COMPOSE MESSAGE

Message Recipients:

- Your State Upper Chamber Representatives

Delivery Method:

- Email
- Printed Letter

Subject:

Don't Risk Patient Safety & Quality; Stop Nurse Scope Bill!

Editable text:

(edit or add your own text - 7629 characters left)

I urge you to vote NO on Senate Bill 2, a dangerous and unnecessary bill that would greatly jeopardize the health and safety of patients in Michigan, if passed.

Physicians and nurses provide the highest quality health care when we work together in collaboration for the well-being of our patients.

Senate Bill 2 does not seek to build on the team based approach. Instead, Senate Bill 2 essentially creates parity for APRNs from a legislative and regulatory standpoint in spite of the significant differences in the levels of training required to practice as a physician to that of an advance practice nurse.

Some specific examples where SB 2 seeks to supplant the historical requirements for a medical residency:

--Under SB 2, Nursing care provided by a CNP includes ordering, performing, supervising, and interpreting laboratory and imaging studies.

Tip: Cutting-and-pasting? Save as [plain text](#) first.

Your Closing:

Sincerely,

Your Name:

2 SENDER INFORMATION

This system requires that you provide your name and contact information. This information will not be used for any purpose other than to identify you to the recipient.

Your Contact Information:

Prefix ([required](#) by some officials)

Select...

First *

Last *

Email *

Address *

City *

State *

Michigan

ZIP *

ZIP + 4

Phone

Remember Me! ([what's this?](#))

Sign me up for the Action E-List.

A copy of your message will be sent to the e-mail address entered above.

Send Message

(Please click only once.)

