

## Testimony of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners

The American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) is the largest professional membership organization for Nurse Practitioners of all specialties and represents the interests of the more than 400,000 licensed Nurse Practitioners in the United States. AANP appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony on behalf of our members in New York, and their patients, in relation to the Joint Legislative Committees on Health Hearing on the FY 2026-2027 Budget.

The enacted FY 2022-2023 state budget eliminated the statutory requirement for Nurse Practitioners with more than 3,600 hours of practice to maintain statutory collaboration agreements with licensed physicians. This provision was extended by the legislature in 2024, and is set to expire at the end of this legislative session. AANP strongly urges the legislature to make this provision permanent as set forth in Governor Hochul's Executive Budget proposal in HMH Article VII, Part B, Section 17, as well as in S.2360 (Rivera)/A.1220 (Paulin). Permanently eliminating this requirement is critical to ensuring New York's Nurse Practitioners maintain their current full practice authority, have clarity and future certainty surrounding the practice requirements in New York, and that patients maintain full and direct access to Nurse Practitioner provided health care services.

Comparative analyses of states that have full practice authority and those without show that states with full practice authority have grown their Nurse Practitioner workforce and maintain high quality care. This has been demonstrated here in New York – in 2024, the Nurse Practitioner workforce increased with the addition of over 4,000 Nurse Practitioners licenses based on the State Education Department's licensure statistics. ([NYSED license statistics](#) - increases from April 2024 to April 2025 report cycles). Retaining New York's status as a full practice authority state is critical. Making permanent the elimination of the requirement for a collaboration agreement for Nurse Practitioners with more than 3,600 hours will continue to help to support New York's healthcare workforce pipeline by retaining New York graduates as well as attracting graduates from states that have yet to modernize their licensure laws.

It is also important to note that New York has over thirty different institutions of higher education that offer Nurse Practitioner education programs. This robust educational landscape produces well-qualified graduates that New York should incentivize to stay by ensuring the statutory landscape encourages them to remain and practice in the State. As states are increasing compete for health care providers, our full practice authority positions the state well. It's important that New York not step backwards on this front. The majority of states in the Northeast allow full practice authority; failing to adopt the permanency provisions in in Governor Hochul's Executive Budget proposal in HMH Article VII, Part B, Section 17 and S.2360 (Rivera)/A.1220 (Paulin), which eliminate the need for Nurse Practitioners with more than 3,600 hours of practice to meet statutory collaboration agreements, would place New York at a disadvantage in recruiting and retaining Nurse Practitioners.

AANP also supports the inclusion of HMH Article VII, Part N, Subpart C, which is substantially similar to S.3822 (Rivera)/A.1942 (Paulin) and would streamline access to healthcare consumers, by clarifying that a Nurse Practitioner, among other licensed healthcare providers, may sign, verify, or certify forms or documents pertaining to any healthcare services that are authorized within their existing scope.

There are several sections of existing law that require a physician's signature on a form noting health status, even when the examination was done by another healthcare professional. In these cases, the physical can be lawfully performed by a Nurse Practitioner under their current scope of practice, but the statutory references for the corresponding paperwork have not been updated. This creates a disconnect between treating the patient and treating the paperwork. These forms relate to whether students may engage in athletic activities; whether a student may return to school following a concussion; if school bus drivers have received current physical examinations; if an injured person may access temporary disability parking permits; and whether a mother may be excused from jury duty to breastfeed a child. The lack of authority of a Nurse Practitioner to sign these forms after they complete the legally permitted physical examination, leads to significant patient confusion, delays, and can increase the cost of care. Governor Hochul's proposal and S.3822/A.1942 seek to correct these issues by updating the relevant statutory references.

AANP thanks the Senate and Assembly Joint Fiscal Committee for the opportunity to offer this written testimony. We urge the legislature to make permanent the full practice authority of Nurse Practitioners and to address the technical updates to ensure Nurse Practitioners can lawfully complete necessary documentation. Both of these proposals will ensure New York's Nurse Practitioners continue to maintain their full practice authority, and that New York remains a desirable state to practice.