



RESOLUTION: AUTONOMOUS PRACTICE FOR NURSE PRACTITIONERS

Whereas, there are currently 2,700 active Advanced Practice Registered Nurses in Mississippi of which 2,033 are Nurse Practitioners; and

WHEREAS, nurse practitioners have practiced in Mississippi for more than 35 years; and,

Whereas, Nurse Practitioners provide care that is high quality, cost effective, and equal to or better than the same care provided by Physicians; and,

Whereas, the scope of practice for all Nurse Practitioners is set and regulated by the Mississippi Board of Nursing — the state agency authorized by statute to protect the public through the process of licensure and regulation of nursing; and,

Whereas, that scope of practice permits Nurse Practitioners to document and review single-patient and family health histories, perform physical examinations of patients of all age ranges, diagnose and treat common and/or acute health issues, order and interpret labs, tests, and x-ray results, prescribe, with knowledge and management, a wide variety of medications, engage in patient education on a proactive level and encourage preventative healthcare measures whenever possible, and refer to and collaborate with various specialists; and,

Whereas, the Institute of Medicine Future of Nursing report suggests that nurse practitioners play an integral role in meeting the needs of an aging population and addressing the increasing demand on access to health care; and,

WHEREAS, the Institute of Medicine Future of Nursing report and the National Council on State Boards of Nursing Consensus Model recommend that nurse practitioners have autonomous practice; and,

WHEREAS, data shows that physicians are sued at a much higher rate than nurse practitioners due to an unwillingness to refer patients to specialists; and,

WHEREAS, twenty-three states have some form of autonomous practice; and

WHEREAS, few states have a greater need than Mississippi for a wider, more cost-efficient, and accessible avenue to health care that could be provided by Nurse Practitioners; and,

Whereas, current regulations and restrictions by the Mississippi Board of Medical Licensure unjustifiably limits a Physician's ability to easily collaborate with Nurse Practitioners; and,

WHEREAS, The Mississippi Nurses Association believes all Nurses should be full partners with physicians and other health care providers in solving health care issues in Mississippi and the nation; and,

WHEREAS, The Mississippi Nurses Association believes all Nurses should practice to the full extent of their education and training;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The Mississippi Nurses Association supports elimination of a Formal collaborative agreement between a Nurse Practitioner and a collaborating physician.