

**Resolution 1**  
**Mississippi Nurses' Association**  
**109th House of Delegates**  
**Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

**Introduced by:**       **Alena Lester, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, ONP-C, Director, Council on Health Affairs, on behalf of the MNA Board of Directors**

**RESOLUTION:**       **Commit to Support, and Advocate for the Removal of Barriers to Provide Full Practice Authority for APRNs**

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WHEREAS, there are over 6,500 licensed Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) in Mississippi providing primary and specialty health care and working in a wide variety of healthcare settings <sup>1</sup>; and

WHEREAS, Full Practice Authority (FPA) is defined as an APRN's ability to utilize knowledge, skills, and judgment to practice to the full extent of his or her education and training <sup>2</sup>; and

WHEREAS, in states that allow FPA, APRN licensure is not contingent on an unnecessary contract or formal relationship with a physician <sup>2</sup>; and

WHEREAS, decades of research have established the safety and cost effectiveness of care by APRNs, and that body of evidence has led to a national call to remove all barriers to full practice authority from organizations such as the Institute of Medicine (IOM), the National Governors Association (NGA), the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the Bipartisan Policy Center, and the Veteran's Health Administration, among others <sup>2</sup>; and

WHEREAS, there is a growing sense of urgency for states to increase the number of health care providers, particularly primary care providers, to meet the current and projected needs of our citizenry <sup>2</sup>; and

WHEREAS, granting nurse practitioners and other advanced practice registered nurses full practice authority has been shown to improve patients' health outcomes and access to essential health care services <sup>3</sup>; and

WHEREAS, by professional training as well as by regulatory and financial necessity, APRNs have emphasized coordinated and cost-effective care, and have tended to establish practices in traditionally underserved areas more than other providers <sup>4</sup>; and

WHEREAS, twenty-one states and the District of Columbia currently grant FPA to one or more APRN roles upon licensure and/or certification <sup>2</sup>; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Board of Nursing is a consumer protection agency with authority to regulate the practice of nursing through licensure, as provided for by the State law <sup>5</sup>; and

WHEREAS, In accordance with current State law, an APRN is not permitted to practice as an APRN if there is no collaborative/consultative relationship with a physician or dentist and a board-approved protocol or practice guidelines <sup>5</sup>; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Nurses' Association House of Delegates at its 2011 meeting adopted a resolution to support the elimination of a formal collaborative agreement between a nurse practitioner and a collaborating physician; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Nurses' Association House of Delegates does not believe that discussion and adoption of full practice authority should be limited to nurse practitioners, but should encompass all APRNs; and

WHEREAS, the purposes of the Mississippi Nurses' Association include stimulating and promoting the professional development of nurses (MNA Bylaws, Article 1; Section 2.A.); and

WHEREAS, the functions of the Mississippi Nurses' Association include promoting and protecting the professional environment of nurses (MNA Bylaws, Article 1; Section 3.F.); and

WHEREAS, the functions of the Mississippi Nurses' Association include providing leadership in nursing in the State (MNA Bylaws, Article 1; Section 3.H.).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mississippi Nurses' Association commits to support and advocate for the removal of barriers in order to allow for full practice authority for APRNs in Mississippi, to ensure patients have access to safe and effective care from the providers of their choice.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mississippi Nurses' Association commits to increase awareness of the critical need to attain full practice authority for APRNs, as appropriate, through publication of articles in the *MS RN*, information disseminated via email, information provided to state policy makers, and information disseminated during continuing education events.

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<sup>1</sup> Mississippi Board of Nursing. Licensure Statistics (2020).

<sup>2</sup> American Nurses Association. ANA's Principles for Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Full Practice Authority. Retrieved from <https://www.nursingworld.org/~49f695/globalassets/docs/ana/ethics/principles-aprnfullpracticeauthority.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> Carole R. Myers PhD, RN, Jill Alliman DNP, CNM. Updates on the Quest for Full Practice Authority, *Journal of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners*, Volume 14, Issue 7, July–August 2018, Pages 559-565, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1555415518303039>.

<sup>4</sup> Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/12956>.

<sup>5</sup>Miss. Code Ann. § 73-15-20.