



August 2, 2018

Janet Napolitano, JD
President, University of California
Co-Chair, California Future Health Workforce Commission

Lloyd Dean, MA
President/CEO, Dignity Health
Co-Chair, California Future Health Workforce Commission

Dear Chairwoman Napolitano and Chairman Dean:

The California Association for Nurse Practitioners (CANP) applauds the work that this Commission is doing. It is clear from your hearings, the studies posted on your website and the workforce survey currently in circulation that this commission is striving to tackle some key problems facing California. We are pleased to see that early recommendations already include allowing Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioners to practice at the top of their license.

Nurse practitioners (NPs) are advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) who are licensed by the Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) and have pursued higher education, either a master's or doctoral degree, and national certification as a NP. NPs play an important role in the healthcare delivery system and provide a variety of care in settings including hospitals, community clinics, and private practice settings, many of which are located in medically underserved and vulnerable communities across our state. CANP was established over forty years ago to represent California NPs and their patients, working to remove unnecessary barriers to care and to protect and expand the practice of the nurse practitioner profession.

As you know, 23 states allow for NPs to have full practice authority. Virginia was the most recent state to embrace full practice authority when their Governor, Doctor Ralph Northam, signed the new law this past April. The results from states like Minnesota, that changed their law allowing NPs to practice independently in 2014, are promising. The number of NPs increased by more than a third and, according to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, Nurse Practitioner is the seventh fastest growing profession. The quality of care is high and patients are happy with the care they are receiving.

The Veterans Administration has also made this change, resulting in critical assistance for those who served our country to get the care they deserve. NPs are on the frontlines – helping our homeless, working with schools, on fire trucks, in rural communities, at Planned Parenthood clinics and every other healthcare location you can imagine.

There are countless examples of the positive contributions that California's over 22,000 NPs can make to our healthcare system when they are released from outdated and bureaucratic laws.

We would appreciate the opportunity to present to the Commission and be a resource as you are crafting solutions to the problems facing California's workforce. Thank you for your time and consideration of our comments. Please contact Rob Finley, CANP's Executive Director, at rob@shawyoderantwih.com you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Karen Bradley'.

Karen Bradley, DNP, PNP-BC, NEA-BC
President