

The Nurse Practitioner Solution:

Making Primary Care Less Expensive and More Accessible

Florida is the most restrictive practice state for ARNPs in the country, which only contributes to steadily increasing healthcare costs and decreasing access to primary care.

The bills under consideration would:

- Change the term “advanced registered nurse practitioner” to “advanced practice registered nurse” (APRN) , which aligns Florida with a majority of other states that use that title.
- Authorize them to prescribe controlled substances if allowed under a written protocol signed by the supervising physician and if they meet other requirements.
- Authorize them to sign a Baker Act.
- Authorize those who are nationally certified as psychiatric-mental health advanced practice nurses to examine persons admitted into receiving facilities under the Baker Act and approve their releases.
- Authorize them to sign death certificates.

Fast Facts

- ◇ Allowing Nurse Practitioners to practice to the full level of their skill and education has been shown to increase primary care access and reduce costs in other states.
- ◇ This is increasingly the case in states like Florida, where the physician shortage is predicted to reach a peak over the next ten years just as the Affordable Care Act dramatically increases the demand for primary care.
- ◇ A 2010 Florida TaxWatch study found that expanding the scope of practice for ARNPs and Physicians Assistants could save the healthcare system in Florida \$339 million.