



October 18, 2017

**PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS**

A Woman's Place  
AAUW Doylestown Branch  
AAUW Levittown-Lower Bucks Branch  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bucks County  
Breastfeeding Resource Center  
Bucks County Area Agency on Aging  
Bucks County Commissioners' Advisory Council for Women  
Bucks County Drug and Alcohol Commission, Inc.  
Bucks County Housing Group  
Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22  
Bucks County Opportunity Council  
Bucks County WIB, Inc.  
Bucks-Mont Collaborative  
BuxMont Unitarian Universalist Peace and Justice Committee  
Child, Home & Community  
Delaware Valley Association for the Education of Young Children  
Family Service Association of Bucks County  
Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania  
Interfaith Community of Lower Bucks  
Keystone Progress  
LaVO Design  
League of Women Voters of Bucks County  
Libertae  
Makefield Area Action Fund of AAUW  
Maternity Care Coalition  
NAACP, Bucks County Branch  
National Council of Jewish Women - PA  
Network of Victim Assistance  
PathWays PA  
Planned Parenthood Keystone  
Public Citizens for Children and Youth  
Quality Child Care Coalition of Bucks County  
Sircely Marketing & Design  
Socrates Developers, LLC  
Soroptimist International of Bucks County  
The Council of Southeast Pennsylvania  
The Peace Center  
Women's Center of Montgomery County  
Woods Services  
YWCA Bucks County

**PARTNER INDIVIDUALS**

More Than 200 Individual Partners and Growing

**RE: HB100/SB25 Nurse Practitioners**

Dear Representatives DiGirolamo, O'Neill, Warren, Galloway, Davis, Farry, Quinn, Watson, Staats, and Petri,

We at Bucks County Women's Advocacy Coalition (BCWAC) ask you to encourage the House Licensure Committee Chair to move HB 100 out of committee and allow the full House to support this bill. As you know, the Senate passed the companion bill SB 25 in April by a vote of 39-to-10. Health care is one of the most important issues facing state government. Access to safe, affordable health care continues to be problematic for too many residents of the Commonwealth. This bipartisan legislation will improve health care quality, expand access, and lower costs, and help keep Pennsylvania's Nurse Practitioners, in Pennsylvania.

The bill would end a requirement that NPs obtain business contracts in order to be allowed to practice. These contracts are redundant because NPs are required to collaborate as part of a health care team in order to earn and maintain their national certification.

Physicians and other researchers at the National Academy of Medicine thoroughly investigated NP care for the landmark 2010 report "The Future of Nursing." The National Academy of Medicine determined that NPs provide safe, high-quality care and endorsed reform like SB25 and HB100 that grants full practice authority to NPs. Twenty-two other states have already enacted this reform. The result has been better care, stronger health care teams and healthier patients.

Patients - and taxpayers - have also realized significant cost-savings from legislation like SB25 and HB100. Researchers at Montana State University found that the cost of care for patients with a nurse practitioner primary care provider ranged between 11 to 29 percent less than the patients with a physician primary care provider. Researchers at the University of California, San Francisco found that provider prices for primary care services fell by 1-4% following the implementation of full practice authority for NPs.

The cost savings also extend to physician malpractice payments. A report in Medical Care Research and Review found that enacting less restrictive scope-of-practice laws for NPs decreases the number of payments made by physicians by as much as 31%.

All of these benefits occurred with no decrease in care quality or patient health outcomes. On the contrary, patient health improved. A study in Nursing Outlook concluded that states with full practice for nurse practitioners have lower hospitalization rates and improved health

outcomes in their communities. The same study found that potentially avoidable hospitalization rates were 50% higher in states like PA with outdated NP laws compared to states with modern laws.

This track record is why SB25 and HB100 are supported by numerous bipartisan advocates across Pennsylvania including The Hospital & Healthsystems Association of PA, AARP Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Health Access Network, the Commonwealth Foundation and many others.

As a compromise brokered with the Hospital Association, SB25 and HB100 would make Pennsylvania the strictest state in the nation to adopt modern NP rules. It includes a requirement for each NP to work under the current rules for 3 years and 3,600 before gaining full practice authority.

It is rare that any legislation, let alone legislation concerning health care, finds support from so many diverse stakeholders. **I urge you to ask committee Chairman Mark Mustio and Minority Chair Readshaw to schedule House Bill 100 for a vote as soon as possible. After which time we urge you to ask House Leadership to vote on this bill as soon as possible. Patients in our community deserve the highest quality care and HB100 will help them get it.**

The Bucks County Woman's Advocacy Coalition is a non-partisan Coalition of more than 200 individual and 41 organization Partners that serve women and girls. We educate and advocate on behalf of women to promote systemic change to achieve gender equity and economic security for all. Access to health care is key to economic security and one of our 10-principles.

Sincerely,



Tam St. Claire  
President



Judie Much,  
NP Issue Specialist