



## *National Policy Overview*

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AANP Region 6 Director

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## *Disclosures & Objectives*

No industry conflicts to report.

*AANP wants NPs to succeed!*

Objectives:

1. Review recent policy changes that impact NP practice
2. Highlight policy trends at the state and federal level
3. Discuss how individual NPs can engage to make a positive difference in health policy

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## *Professional Disclosure*

The comments reflected herein are my own. They do not necessarily reflect the views of The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services or the United States Public Health Service.

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### ***AANP Mission Reflects Commitment***

The mission of AANP is to empower all  
*nurse practitioners*  
 to advance quality health care through  
*practice, education, advocacy, research and leadership.*



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### **Policy Goals**

#### **Removing Barriers for NPs & Their Patients**

- Modernizing Licensure Laws
- Streamlining Care Delivery with NP Signature Recognition
- Promoting Flexible & Sustainable Reimbursement
- Including NPs in all Health Care Delivery Models
- Improving Public Health
- Supporting Funding for NP Education




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### ***State of the States***

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### ***Making Progress: Transforming Policy. Improving Health.***



- *Years of Progress* in improving access & quality care
- *8 states in the last 8 years gained Full Practice Authority. Currently at 22 states and D.C.*
- Dozens of legislative efforts *finalized in support of NPs and their patients*

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**Congratulations, Guam!**

**Full Practice Authority  
For Nurse Practitioners  
Better Care for Patients**



#### **Full Practice**

State practice and licensure law provides for all nurse practitioners to evaluate patients, diagnose, order and interpret diagnostic tests, initiate and manage treatments—including prescribing medications—under the exclusive licensure authority of the state board of nursing. This is the model recommended by the Institute of Medicine and National Council of State Boards of Nursing.

#### **Reduced Practice**

State practice and licensure law reduces the ability of nurse practitioners to engage in at least one element of NP practice. State law requires a regulated collaborative agreement with an outside health discipline in order for the NP to provide patient care or limits the setting or scope of one or more elements of NP practice.

#### **Restricted Practice**

State practice and licensure law restricts the ability of a nurse practitioner to engage in at least one element of NP practice. State requires supervision, delegation, or team-management by an outside health discipline in order for the NP to provide patient care.

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### ***State Highlights: In the Last Year***

#### **Licensure:**

**Indiana and Florida** adopted national APRN Consensus Model title and licensure requirement language

**South Carolina and Virginia** passed new law that will change the relationship between NPs and physicians in required agreements and protocols for licensure

#### **Signature Recognition:**

**Alabama and South Carolina** NPs gain signature authority for select forms  
**Indiana, Michigan and New York** NPs included on POLST forms

#### **Insurance:**

**West Virginia** Prevents insurers from requiring NP to hold collaborative agreement for credentialing and reimbursement

#### **Education:**

**Hawaii** Passed preceptor tax credit bill to bolster clinical sites for NP students

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## State Policy Trends



Health Policy is the  
**Number 1 Policy Issue in 4 States**  
...& made the **Top 5 Issue** in 27 states




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## Trending Policy Issues

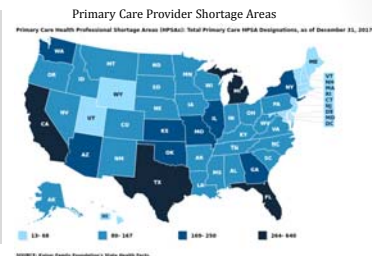
### Workforce & Licensure

#### NP Licensure

- Full Practice Authority
- Barrier Reduction
- Licensure Portability

#### Workforce

- Loan-repayment incentives for provider-shortage areas
- Tax credits for preceptors
- Modernizing licensure oversight and SOP for other health professionals
- Telehealth



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## Trending Policy Issues

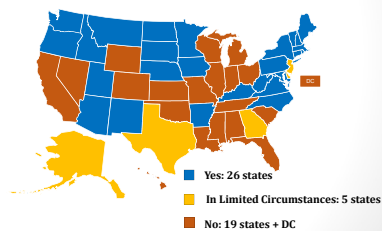
### Signature Recognition

Authorizes NPs to "treat the paperwork"

- Global vs. "Laundry List"
- Issue Specific Bills

\*13 states with global signature\* CO, GA, HI, ME, MA, NM, NC, RI, VT, VA, WA, WV, NV

#### Nurse Practitioner Authorization to Sign Death Certificates



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## Trending Policy Issues

### Substance Misuse and Opioid Prescribing

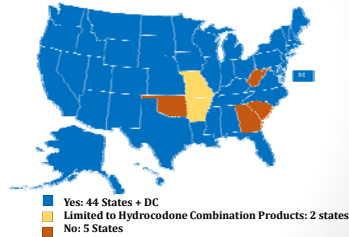
Continued Focus on "Safe Prescribing"

- Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs
- Mandatory Provider CE
- Quantity Limitations
- Informed Consent, SBIRT Screening

Substance Abuse Disorder

- Medication Assisted Treatment
- Prevention Programs

NP Schedule II Controlled Substance Prescriptive Authority



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## Trending Policy Issues

### Public Health

- Patient-empowered End-of-Life Decisions
  - Advanced Directives
  - POLST/MOLST
- Immunizations
- Concussion Care
- Pediatric Skin Cancer Risk Reduction
- Medication and Prior Authorization Reform
- Access to Emergency EpiPens in Schools

Nurse Practitioner Authorization to Sign Providers Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) Forms



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## Trending Policy Issues

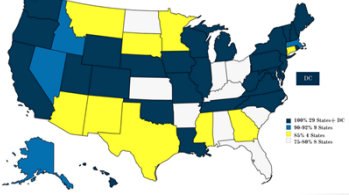
### Reimbursement and Health System Design

AANP Initiatives

- [Nurse Practitioner Support and Alignment Network](#)
- [Multistate Reimbursement Alliance](#)

Franklin Harrington,  
AANP Director of Reimbursement  
Contact: fharrington@aanp.org

Percent of Physician Reimbursement in Medicaid for Nurse Practitioners



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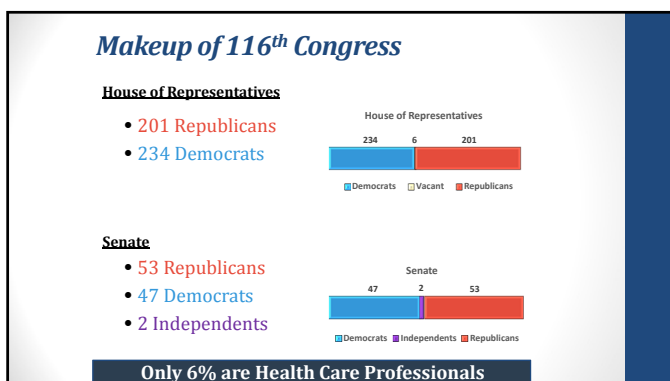
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### *House Committees of Jurisdiction*

#### Energy & Commerce

- Ranking Member Greg Walden (R-OR)
- Chairman Frank Pallone (D-NJ)

#### Education & Workforce

- Ranking Member Virginia Foxx (R-NC)
- Chairman Bobby Scott (D-VA)

#### Ways & Means

- Ranking Member Kevin Brady (R-TX)
- Chairman Richard Neal (D-MA)

#### Veterans Affairs

- Ranking Member Phil Roe (R-TN)
- Chairman Mark Takano (D-CA)

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### *Senate Committees of Jurisdiction*

#### • Finance

- Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-IA)
- Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-OR)

#### • Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP)

- Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN)
- Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-WA)

#### • Veterans Affairs

- Chairman Johnny Jackson (R-GA)
- Ranking Member Jon Tester (D-MT)

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### *Our Goal is to Eliminate ALL Barriers to Practice for NPs*

- Certifying patients' need for home health care
  - **Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act**
- Allowing nurse practitioner patients to count for Medicare ACO shared savings
  - **ACO Assignment Improvement Act**
- Ensuring patients have timely access to diabetic shoes
  - **Promoting Access to Diabetic Shoes Act**
- Permanently Authorizing NPs to Prescribe Medication Assisted Treatments
  - **Addiction Treatment Access Improvement Act-PASSED**

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### ***Certifying Patients' Need for Home Health Care***

- H.R. 1825/S. 445, the *Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act*
  - House: Rep. Chris Collins (R-NY)
    - 179 cosponsors (78 R – 101 D)\*
  - Senate: Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) & Ben Cardin (D-MD)
    - 44 cosponsors (12 R – 31 D – 1 I)\*
- Last Congress, had 52 cosponsors in the Senate and 206 cosponsors in the House
- NPs can provide face to face assessments but under current law, a physician must certify the patient's eligibility.

\*As of July 24, 2018

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### ***Allowing NP Patients to Count for Medicare ACO Shared Savings***

- HR 1160, the *ACO Assignment Improvement Act*
  - House: Reps. Derek Kilmer (WA) & Lynn Jenkins (KS)
    - 21 cosponsors (7 R – 14 D)\*
- As changes to the Medicare system are made and payment models evolve, it is imperative that NPs are full partners in Accountable Care Organization (ACO) models.

\*As of July 24, 2018

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### ***Ensuring Patients have Timely Access to Diabetic Shoes***

- H.R. 1617/S. 3067, *Promoting Access to Diabetic Shoes Act*
  - House: Rep. Tom Reed (R-NY) & Earl Blumenauer (D-OR)
    - 31 cosponsor (12 R – 19 D)\*
  - Senate: Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) & Susan Collins (R-ME)
    - 2 Cosponsors (2 R – 0 D) (Introduced June 14, 2018)\*
- This legislation would allow NPs to certify their patients' need for diabetic shoes.

\*As of July 24, 2018

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### ***Federal Successes***

- SGR repealed and replaced with MACRA - using provider neutral language
- Legislation passed to allow NPs to certify DME orders
- A 5 year authorization for NPs to prescribe MATs signed into law
- Legislation introduced to make permanent the authorization for NPs to prescribe MATs.
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures signed into law, including mental health reform
- Home health bills had more bipartisan support in both chambers than ever before
- Legislation introduced in House and Senate to authorize NPs to certify patients' need for diabetic shoes
- Legislation introduced in House to fully include NPs and their patients in Medicare Shared Savings ACOs
- AANP (then) President Ken Miller testified twice before the Energy and Commerce Committee
- AANP President Joyce Knestrick testified before a House Appropriations Subcommittee
- AANP President Joyce Knestrick participated in two Congressional briefings to Congressional leaders on opioid abuse.
- AANP President Joyce Knestrick met with U.S. Surgeon General to discuss the vital role NPs play in ensuring community health.
- Over 31,000 messages sent to policymakers in 2017
- AANP activist database now has over 195,000 contacts
- Health Policy Conference attendees visited with over 246 Congressional offices
- The AANP-PAC raised \$214,780 and contributed \$256,500 to Members of Congress in 2017

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### ***Keeping Our Finger on the Pulse of Health Care Issues***

- Primary Care
- Addiction Treatments – Opioid Crisis
- Post Acute Care Reform
- Tele-Health
- Provider Non-Discrimination -Section 2706 of the ACA
- MACRA Implementation (Regulations)
- Medicaid
- Electronic Health Records
- Rural Health
- Cardiac Rehab
- CHIP Reauthorization
- Provider Identification – Truth in Health Care Marketing Act
- Title VII & VIII Reauthorization/Funding
- National Health Service Corp Reauthorization

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### ***NP Allies-Federal Trade Commission (FTC)***

- Competition Advocacy (competition is important)
  - Benefits to consumers
  - Value
  - Increased coordination and collaboration
- 2014 APRN policy paper
  - Pennsylvania 2018
  - VA 2016

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***NP Allies***

- HHS Report on Reform 2018
- Presidential Executive Order, Choice and Competition 2017
- North Carolina Dental Hygienist versus the Dental Board
- Response to US Opioid Epidemic
- Rural Health
- Telehealth
- HIT

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***TNP Initiatives in the 86th Legislative Session***

- Full Practice Authority
- Prescriptive Authority for Schedule II Controlled Substances
- Virtual Meetings for Prescriptive Authority Agreements
- Signature Recognition for Worker's Compensation Forms
- Signature Recognition for Concussion Return-to-Play Forms
- APRN Out-of-State & Disaster Licensure

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***What Tools are Most Effective in Your Outreach to Legislators?***

- Grassroots
- Media
- Coalitions
- Data
- Lobbying




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***Your Action is Needed!***

- Interact with Members of Congress
  - Send them a letter
  - Meet with them in their District/State office
  - Invite them to your practice – let them see you at work
  - Attend a town hall meeting and ask them a question
- District work periods provide great opportunities to get to know your Members of Congress and their staff



Elected officials need to hear from, meet, and interact with NPs

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***Save The Date***

2020 Health Policy Conference  
Washington, D.C. | March 8 -10<sup>th</sup>

Impact of the  
2020 Elections



NP Priorities  
in a  
New Congress

Meet With Your New Members  
of Congress on Capitol Hill Day

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THANK YOU

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