



Students for Patient Advocacy Nationwide

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March 11, 2026

The Honorable Ed Charbonneau, Chair
Indiana Senate Committee on Health and Provider Services
200 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2785

Position Letter: S.B. 60 – Enhancing Healthcare Market Oversight and Pharmaceutical Access

Dear Chairman Charbonneau and members of the Senate Committee on Health and Provider Services.

Students For Patient Advocacy Nationwide (SPAN) is writing to express our strong support for S.B. 60. SPAN firmly supports Indiana's SB 60, which expands patient access to care by reducing regulatory barriers to APRN practice, effectively leveraging the full extent of APRN training to meet the growing healthcare demands.

Currently, Indiana requires APRNs to maintain formal collaborative agreements with physicians to practice and prescribe. While intended as a safeguard, these requirements often function as administrative hurdles that do not improve clinical outcomes but do increase overhead costs and limit where APRNs can practice. S.B. 60 addresses these barriers effectively by:

- ***Elimination Physician Collaboration Requirements:*** Allowing APRNs to practice the full extent of their education and certification
- ***Repealing Burdensome Audits:*** Removing outdated statutory mandates that create administrative delays without adding patient value.
- ***Updating Prescriptive Authority:*** Streamlining the process for APRNs to provide necessary medication to their patients.

Proven Success in Other States

Indiana would not be alone in this shift. Currently, over 25 states and the District of Columbia have already adopted Full Practice Authority (FPA) models.

- ***Improved Access:*** States with FPA consistently see a higher density of APRNs in rural and underserved areas compared to states with restrictive “collaborative” requirements.
- ***Cost Reduction:*** Research indicates that FPA can lead to lower costs for primary care services and a reduction in emergency room visits for non-emergency conditions.



- ***Quality of Care:*** Numerous studies, including those by the National Academy of Medicine, show that the quality of care provided by APRNs is comparable to that of physicians in primary care settings.

By passing S.B. 60, Indiana has the opportunity to lead in healthcare innovation. This bill is a common-sense solution to the primary care shortage, particularly in Indiana's rural counties. It empowers highly trained professionals to care for patients to the best of their efforts.

SPAN carries full support for the Committee to advance S.B. 60 to ensure that every one of them, regardless of their zip code, has access to high-quality, timely, and affordable healthcare.

Sincerely,

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References

1. Hunley. *LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY OFFICE of FISCAL and MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT*. ---. *SENATE BILL No. 60 _____ DIGEST of INTRODUCED BILL*. (Helps to outline the elimination of physician collaboration requirements and the APRN prescriptive authority to reduce administrative hurdles; updating to add a modern standpoint on Indiana's healthcare workforce)
2. Hunley, Andrea. "Indiana General Assembly." *In.gov*, 2026, iga.in.gov/legislative/2026/bills/senate/60/details. (Analyzes the economic benefits of reducing regulatory barriers, confirms that reducing such barriers for APRNs can reduce administrative overhead and improve the state's healthcare delivery)
3. Kleinpell, Ruth. "Indiana General Assembly." *In.gov*, 2026, iga.in.gov/legislative/2026/bills/senate/60/details. (Empirical evidence proves that removing practice barriers increases provider capacity and patient access while maintaining safety standards.)
4. Martin, Brendan, et al. "Evaluating the Impact of Executive Orders Lifting Restrictions on Advanced Practice Registered Nurses during the COVID-19 Pandemic." *Journal of Nursing Regulation*, vol. 14, no. 1, 2023, pp. 50–58, www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10074069/, [https://doi.org/10.1016/s2155-8256\(23\)00068-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/s2155-8256(23)00068-6) (The industry standard demonstrates uniform regulation and full practice authority leads to better provider distribution)

