

To: Senate Health and Welfare

From: Lauren Hibbert, General Counsel, Office of Professional Regulation

Re: APRN licensing in the State of Vermont

Date: April 12, 2018

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Dear Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to explain scope-of-practice constraints for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs).

Advanced Practice Registered Nurses are licensed in a particular role, and each role has a different license type issued by the Office of Professional Regulation. The four roles are:

- 1) nurse practitioner;
- 2) certified nurse midwife;
- 3) certified nurse anesthetist; or,
- 4) clinical nurse specialist in psychiatric or mental health nursing.

Prior to obtaining a specific license in one of these roles, an applicant must show that he or she holds a current advanced nursing certification in a particular role and population focus from a national certifying organization. National certifications are based on the four roles above and population focus (family, neonatal, pediatric, adult, women's health/gender related, geriatric, and psychiatric/mental health). An APRN cannot be licensed in Vermont without holding this national certification.

If an APRN wants to change either population or role, he or she must obtain an additional national certification, which would usually require an additional graduate program, and subsequently, the APRN must apply for a new license with the Office of Professional Regulation. Failure to meet both of these requirements before moving into a new area would constitute unprofessional conduct. In such a case the APRN has practiced beyond his or her scope and training, which is constrained to the APRN's specific role, license, and national certification. Additionally, insurance providers typically require evidence of national certification and license verification prior to underwriting an APRN.

See, 26 V.S.A. § 1611 (APRN Licensure Requirements), 3 V.S.A. §129(a) (Unprofessional Conduct Standards)