
Laura Norris

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Dear Senator Ayer,

My name is Laura Norris and I am a family physician in Cambridge, Vermont. I am an owner of an independent Family Practice group and am very concerned about some changes that are being implemented regarding nurse practitioners. The original bill, H.684, addresses some of the necessary parameters surrounding Nurse Practitioner capabilities, but since the original bill, there have been alterations that strongly impact those of us in the independent practice world.

I would ask that you support the original version of H.684 as introduced, which would eliminate practice guidelines and transition to practice requirements for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses. Both of these requirements are unnecessary administrative burdens and do not lead to a higher quality of care. In fact, collaborative practice agreements in some instances can act as a barrier to entry for new nurse practitioners. I do not support the version of H.684 that passed the House.

I do believe that a qualified Nurse Practitioner is well able to practice independently at a facility as long as a seasoned provider is available by phone for consultation. Limiting this kind of flexibility for practices by requiring the physical presence of the consulting provider in the building is overly restrictive and may make it very difficult for smaller rural practices like ours to keep our doors open. Further requiring that there are two seasoned providers in a practice in order to supervise a newly graduated Nurse Practitioner clearly puts an end to the solo practitioner who is looking for practice support from

such providers. More and more, the government restrictions serve to drive the independent practices out of business and pave the way for the corporate healthcare giants to take over.

Thank you for your consideration,

Laura Norris MD