



Thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.163, which changes the Patient Bill of Rights to allow for APRNs to be the attending provider. For this bill, VAHHS consulted with hospital Chief Medical Officers, Chief Nursing Officers, and Emergency Department Medical Directors. Overall, most providers supported S.163 as reflecting the needs of the current rural hospital health care landscape. As a result, VAHHS is generally supportive of S.163, which provides flexibility and reflects current practice in some rural hospitals.

We did hear concerns from some physician members around Medicare standard of care [requirements](#) that every Medicare patient be under the care of a physician. It is our understanding that other states have figured out how to implement these changes. Additionally, hospitals can set their own admitting and discharging privileges should this be an issue.