

The Honorable Tom Davis
Chairman, Senate Medical Affairs Subcommittee
203 Gressette Building
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the South Carolina Physician Alliance, SC Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, SC Chapter of the American College of Cardiology, and the SC Oncology Society, we write to express our strong opposition to the proposed South Carolina legislation seeking to expand the scope of practice for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) to include independent practice without physician collaboration or supervision.

As physicians committed to the highest standards of patient care, we oppose the proposed South Carolina legislation seeking to expand the scope of practice for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) to include independent practice without physician collaboration or supervision.

Our position is grounded in the following concerns:

1. Patient Safety Must Come First

Medical education and training for physicians and APRNs are not equivalent. Physicians complete more than 25,000 hours of clinical training through medical school and residency, compared to the 1,000-2,000 hours typically required for APRNs. This depth and breadth of training equips physicians to manage complex medical conditions, make critical diagnostic decisions, and intervene in emergencies. Removing physician collaboration could compromise patient safety, particularly for patients with multiple or high-risk conditions.

2. The Importance of a Team-Based Model of Care

High-quality healthcare depends on collaboration. Nurses, nurse practitioners, and physicians each bring essential skills to patient care. However, safe and effective care is achieved when these professionals work together in a team-based model, not in silos. Eliminating physician oversight undermines this model and risks fragmenting care.

3. Patients Deserve Physician-Led Care

South Carolinians deserve the assurance that their care is directed by professionals with the highest level of medical training. While APRNs are valued and respected

members of the healthcare team, the physician-led model remains the safest and most effective way to ensure consistent, high-quality care.

In summary, we oppose the South Carolina APRN Scope of Practice bill because it prioritizes convenience over safety, fragments the team-based model of care, and does not address the true causes of healthcare access challenges. We urge lawmakers to protect patients by preserving physician-led, team-based care in South Carolina.



South Carolina Chapter

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