

Testimony in Support of SB 68

March 17, 2015

Submitted by: Debra A. Guido-Allen, MBA, BSN, RN, NE-BC  
Michigan Organization of Nurse Executives

Good afternoon Chairman Shirkey and members of the Senate Health Policy committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today in support of Senate Bill 68. My name is Debra Guido-Allen and I am the Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer at Beaumont Hospital in Troy. I am also the current president of the Michigan Organization of Nurse Executives. The Michigan Organization of Nurse Executives is comprised of Nurse Leaders representing over 166,000 licensed nurses - 6,700 of whom are Advance Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) across the state of Michigan. Passage of SB 68 will allow APRNs in Michigan to care for patients of our communities within the full scope of practice for which they have been educated and trained. Additionally, as the nursing leaders in the various organizations in which APRNs practice, allowing them to practice to the full extent of their education and experience allows us to assure that our professional mandate to address the health needs to the patient and public is met. APRNs are experts in nursing practice, able to guide and direct new nurses into the practice and provide succession for future advancement in nursing.

The residents of our communities deserve access to high quality, cost effective healthcare. While such care can be provided by several types of our health professional colleagues, many of those same services are currently being provided by highly educated and skilled APRNs. Today, APRNs diagnose, prescribe and treat patients within a narrow scope of practice that is determined by their training, advanced graduate nursing education, and national certification. SB 68 codifies this into statute. The definitions in SB 68 actually enhance the transparency of the delivery of healthcare, promote quality, and protect the public. This legislation provides structure, specificity, oversight, and accountability with regards to the delivery of healthcare by defining the scope of practice for Nurse Practitioners, Certified Nurse Midwives and Clinical Nurse Specialists.

SB 68 does not change the requirement of supervision or delegation of Registered Nurses by physicians.

There is no data to suggest that APRNs in states that impose greater restrictions on their practice provide safer and better care than those in less restrictive states -or- that the role of the physician in less restrictive states has changed or deteriorated.

The Michigan Organization of Nurse Executives strongly encourages your support of SB 68. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.