



Healthcare Freedom in Michigan
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Mr. Chairman, Senators, and guests,

I submit this testimony in opposition to one provision of the APRN Bill, HB 5400.

Expanding Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) scope of practice will benefit both professionals and patients in Michigan. This version is a minimalist sort of expansion, but even as such, it improves healthcare access by removing market barriers.

If only the bill stopped there.

Unfortunately, the bill delivers a poison pill by increasing RN and LPN licensure fees. This clear market barrier, erected amid ACA disruption and rising market prices, perversely adds to a rising nationwide health professional shortage. In the past four years, Michigan's workforce of active RNs has dropped 13.8%.

Since 1989, this renewal fee has tripled. This bill doubles the current level, a levy increase upon Michigan nurses that nets LARA >\$8.5 Million in revenue while adding zero value to care. A market-savvy strategy would reduce license fees to encourage more nurses to practice in Michigan. At a minimum, Michigan's legislators could serve us better today by denying the increase and directing LARA to find spending cuts, as Michigan taxpayers have been forced to do with their own budgets. Removing the fee changes from Section 16327 will enable this bill to serve the best interests of all Michigan patients and professionals.

Thank you for your consideration, and please vote No on HB 4598 absent removal of Section 16327 changes.

Best,
Abby

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