



March 10, 2020

The Honorable Members of the California State Legislature  
 State Capitol  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 890 (Wood) Nurse Practitioners – Support

Dear Honorable Members of the California State Legislature:

Our organizations strongly support AB 890 (Wood), a bill that would give full practice authority to nurse practitioners (NPs), helping to close a growing and serious provider gap in California. Addressing this provider gap is critical to achieving California’s goals of increased access to health care for vulnerable and underserved populations.

AB 890 couldn’t come at a more critical time for our healthcare delivery system. California is facing a severe provider shortage, especially in primary care. According to the [California Future Health Workforce Commission \(CFHWC\)](#), in just 10 years, California will face a shortage of 4,100 primary care clinicians and will have only two-thirds of the psychiatrists it needs.

While these shortages impact all of us, they disproportionately impact rural and underserved communities. Today, seven million Californians, the majority of them Latino, African American, and Native American, are already experiencing shortfalls of primary care, dental care, or behavioral health care providers. These shortages are most severe in some of California’s largest and fastest-growing regions, including the Inland Empire, Los Angeles, San Joaquin Valley, and in most rural areas.





Senior Care Clinic



HOUSE CALLS



California's highly-trained population of NPs are poised to help fill this widening provider gap. Unfortunately, NPs are unable to practice without a physician present or on call. This requirement is exacerbating the provider gap and drastically reducing access to care for millions by preventing NPs from being able to care directly for patients. California is the only western state with this requirement.

Under AB 890, NPs would provide the same care that they do today, simply without the supervisory requirement. Allowing NPs to utilize the full extent of their education and training by granting full practice authority provides significant benefits:



**High-Quality Care.** Research shows that NPs provide comparable quality care to physicians, even without physician oversight. Additionally, patients managed by an NP have lower rates of hospitalization and ER visits than those managed by physicians.

**More Primary Care Providers.** Over 58% of NPs in California provide primary care, compared to only 17% of physicians. Because of the shortage of primary care physicians in rural and underserved areas, NPs are critical to closing the provider gap in our highest-need regions.

**Healthcare Providers for Medi-Cal/Uninsured Patients.** A 2017 survey found nearly 70% of NPs were accepting new Medi-Cal patients, compared to 55% of primary care physicians. Additionally, 54% of NPs were accepting uninsured patients, compared to 32% of primary care physicians.

**Cost Savings.** If full practice authority for NPs is achieved by 2020, there would be nearly 50,000 fewer revisits to emergency departments for illnesses that could be prevented through primary care, resulting in cost savings of more than \$58 million per year.

Our organizations recognize the importance and urgency of the need to close the provider gap and fully utilizing nurse practitioners is a step toward providing health care for all Californians. We urge you to support and pass AB 890.



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**All For Health, Health For All, Inc.**

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**Laguna Family Health Center**

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**LGBTQ Center Orange County**

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**Mental Health America**

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**National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
- Los Angeles Chapter**

Allison Anderson, CPNP-PC, President

**National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
- San Francisco Bay Area Chapter**

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**National Black Nurses Association**

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**San Diego Center for Children**

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**San Francisco AIDS Foundation**

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**San Francisco Chamber of Commerce**

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Vanessa Aspericueta, FNP-BC, Co-Chair

**San Francisco Department of Public Health  
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**San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership**

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**Senior Care Clinic Medical House Calls**

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