

Dear Senator or House of Representative _____,

Date _____

I am a registered nurse and member of the _____. Our organization requests your support and co-sponsorship on Senate Bill 2151, NURSING-DELEGATION amending the Illinois Nurse Practice Act which clarifies some definitions and delegation language including medication administration. Our bill sponsor is Senator Michael Hastings. The 2017 Illinois Nurse Practice Act (NPA) contains unclear and inconsistent language which created a public safety breach in some sections. Illinois nursing regulation language is now contrary to the Legislative Purpose of the Illinois NPA. Public health law licensure oversight ensures public safety by mandating that competent professionals are licensed to provide services to the public. State nurse licensure falls under the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) <https://www.idfpr.com/About/About.asp>

The Legislative Purpose of the **Illinois Nurse Practice Act** (NPA) remains clear:

Legislative purpose. The practice of professional and practical nursing in the State of Illinois is hereby declared to affect the public health, safety, and welfare and to be subject to regulation and control in the public interest. It is further declared to be a matter of public interest and concern that the practice of nursing, as defined in this Act, merit and receive the confidence of the public and that only qualified* persons be authorized* to so practice in the State of Illinois.

***Qualified** = educated in approved Illinois Board of Nursing programs

***Authorized** = licensed by passing a national nursing exam National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX), is a standardized test that every state regulatory board uses to determine if a candidate is ready to become licensed as an entry-level nurse.

Changes in the 2017 NPA **now allows** a registered nurse to delegate "nursing interventions" to unlicensed, unregulated non-nurses to perform nursing interventions including medication administration in the Community setting (clinics and schools). *2017 Nurse Practice Act definition of "nursing intervention" means any treatment based on clinical nursing judgment or knowledge that a nurse performs.*

As licensed nurses, we believe non-nurses are not qualified or authorized to perform nursing interventions in any setting. This dangerous change creates undue risk for the public when delivering nursing care and is in direct conflict with the Practice Act's legislative purpose, which mandates education and licensure to practice nursing in Illinois.

For example, medication administration which is a nursing intervention is a complex nursing responsibility requiring nursing knowledge and judgment as verified through their education and licensure. Delegating medication administration to an unlicensed, unregulated non-nurse is not safe.

What evidence was used to change Illinois' nursing delegation language? There is no research that supports non-nurses equal to or safer to practice nursing than educated, licensed regulated nurses. For decades, nursing has been regulated to mandating education and licensure to practice nursing. Clear delegation language was in place. However, in 2014 Illinois legislators pass a Licensed Medication Aide Pilot (PA 098-0990) in 2014 to run a 3-year study to assess if non-nurses are safe to administer medications in nursing homes, delegated by a registered nurse. Only 4 persons participated in this Pilot which yielded no statistical evidence to prove patient safety. The Licensed Medication Aide Pilot ran 2016-2019 and could not be considered when a small group of nurses convened to make the drastic changes the delegation language in the 2017 NPA. A failed Illinois Pilot and no scientific statistical evidence pre-empted the 2017 NPA changes to allow registered nurses to delegation medication administration to non-nurses.

Legislative Remedy with Senate Bill 2151

- Restores the robust definition of registered professional nursing to the NPA including nursing process, role of nursing in medication administration.
- Restores only educated, licensed nurses practice nursing.
- Restores definitions such as "tasks" clarifying work not requiring nursing knowledge or judgment
- Mandates registered nurses are prohibited from delegating medication administration or any nursing work requiring nursing knowledge and judgement to unlicensed, unregulated non-nurses in any setting.

ADD A COUPLE SENTENCES HERE, IN YOUR OWN WORDS, EXAMPLING HOW YOU SEE NON-NURSES PEFORMING NURSING INTERVENTIONS AS UNSFAE FOR PATIENTS.

Your name

Chicago Chapter National Black Nurses Association member – nurse for _____ years

your email and your phone number