



April 1, 2020

Kimberly Kirchmeyer
 Director, Department of Consumer Affairs
 State of California

Dear Ms. Kirchmeyer:

Our organizations, representing hospitals, health care providers, clinics, behavioral health practitioners, and others, appreciate your leadership during the COVID-19 public health crisis. We are working with our members to combat the spread of COVID-19 and will continue to do everything we can to support the health care system during this time.

In order to deploy all critical resources to respond to the outbreak and care for patients in need, we ask that you waive the existing physician-supervision requirement of nurse practitioners, which currently prevents them from working at the top of their education and training. California's current statutory scheme does not allow NPs to provide care in settings and communities that are in desperate need. California NPs are more prepared than ever to help address this public health crisis and to provide critically-needed care across the state. We understand that it will take the whole delivery system to shift to meet the eminent COVID-19 surge. **We ask that you approve the waiver submitted by the California Association for Nurse Practitioners (CANP) to authorize NPs to practice without formal physician oversight or standardized procedures for the duration of the COVID-19 outbreak.**

Specifically, the waiver requests that the California Business and Professions Code (BPC) be adjusted to:

- Eliminate references to “collaboration and supervision” between a health system, a physician and a nurse practitioner in developing or utilizing “standardized procedures” in order to quickly and safely deploy nurse practitioners into a variety of care settings, some of which may not be hospitals or organized health systems;
- And allow nurse practitioners, in consistency with the NPs educational preparation, to provide patients access to necessary care without undue administrative burden.

Our healthcare system needs to bring all resources to bear to get through this public health crisis. There are approximately 26,000 nurse practitioners in California who are educated, trained and ready to care for patients, without pulling physicians away from the patients they are treating. In a time when expanding access to care for all Californians is critical, **we ask you to use your authority**

and approve CANP's waiver request, allowing nurse practitioners to practice independently. We know that this moment requires all hands on deck, and NPs are ready to serve the state and provide access to care.

Sincerely,

Anita Girard, DNP, RN, CPHQ, NEA-BC, President
American Nurses Association\California

Amber King, Interim CEO
Association of California Healthcare Districts

Adrienne Shilton, Senior Policy Advocate
California Alliance of Child & Family Services

Erica Murray, President & CEO
California Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems

Betty Dahlquist, Executive Director
California Association of Social Rehabilitation Agencies

Karen Bradley, DNP, PNP-BC, NEA-BC, President
California Association for Nurse Practitioners

Maria Sperber, Legislative Advocate
California Hospital Association

Linda Tenerowicz, Senior Policy Advocate
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network

Carmela Castellano-Garcia, President & Chief Executive Officer
California Primary Care Association

Steven Elson, Ph.D., CEO
Casa Pacifica Centers for Children & Families

Heidi Strunk, President & CEO
Mental Health America of California

Tim Schraeder, Chief Executive Officer
Redwood Quality Management Company

Maggie Merritt, Executive Director
Steinberg Institute

Eva Terrazas, Senior Director of Policy and Advocacy
Uplift Family Services

Cc: Governor Gavin Newsom, State of California

Mark Ghaly, MD, MPH, Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency

Alice Chen, MD, MPH, Deputy Secretary for Policy and Planning, CHHS

Richard Figueroa, Deputy Cabinet Secretary for Health, Office of the Governor

Lourdes M. Castro Ramirez, Secretary, California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency

Evon Lenerd Tapps, Executive Officer, Board of Registered Nursing