Nurse Practitioner Alliance of Alabama

SB 114 - Nurse Practitioner to Physician Ratio

✳ Sponsored by Senator Jim McClendon - Chair, Health Senate Committee

- For nurse practitioners (NP) to practice in Alabama they must be in collaborative practice with a physician
- A physician may collaborate with up to 4 FTE NPs or 160 hours/week - this restricts the number of nurse practitioners practicing in Alabama
- Alabama ranks in the top five most restrictive states for FTE ratio
- **40 states have no ratio**
- **ADPH has no ratio** and has experienced no increase in adverse outcomes due to the removal of the ratio
- Physicians working in Long Term Care facilities in Alabama have a 8:1 ratio
- Alabama has a shortage of healthcare providers - which increases risk of serious health problems and illness
- Alabama ranks 47th in health statistics including diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke, and obesity
- NPs can fill the gap of provider shortages but is limited by the FTE ratio
- Multiple studies have shown that NPs provider safe and quality care on par with their physician counterparts for common diagnoses
- Multiple studies show that states with less restrictive NP regulations have increase access to care, lower hospitalization rates, and improved health outcomes
- There are 8 NP schools in Alabama graduating 2700 NPs a year
- Because of the restrictive state regulations, NPs tend to move to other states and Alabama can not attract NPs to move here to practice
- States that have no FTE ratios have no increase percentage of adverse events
- This bill does not expand **NP scope of practice**
- This bill does not change/lessen the **quality assurance plan** required by the state regulatory agencies.