



MISSISSIPPI
ACADEMY OF
FAMILY
PHYSICIANS

LEGISLATIVE CALL TO ACTION: Physicians Needed to Make Calls on Scope of Practice

HB 1490, has been introduced and referred to the House Public Health Committee. [HB 1490](#) would remove physicians from the health care team and put Mississippians at risk for worse health outcomes and higher costs without improving access to care in rural areas.

The MAFP Advocacy Committee needs MAFP members to make calls to Speaker Jason White and House Public Health Committee members and leave message at the Capitol Switchboard. The message is simple:

I ask that you do not bring up HB 1490

1. Speaker Jason White at 601-359-3770.

2. The House Public Health Committee is listed at bottom, call and leave message at 601-359-3770. It is preferable that the caller is from the member's district and/or has a relationship with the member. *You do not have to be best friends, just recognition.*

REASONS WHY HB 1490 is a bad bill:

All communities, especially rural communities, deserve access to a doctor.

- The Legislature has made a tremendous impact with your commitment to the MS Rural Physicians Scholars Program and helped produce 70 practicing physicians in rural communities. The Legislature has also impacted our state with your commitment to the Office of Mississippi Physician Workforce by creating new residency programs in primary care, training physicians throughout the state to better serve Mississippians. As a result, representative you are helping more patients get the quality care they need and deserve from a physician. Please do not pass legislation that will undermine these successful programs and discourage future physicians in rural areas.
- Allowing independent practice for Family NPs will jeopardize access to Family Physicians – 70% of NPs are Family NPs. Allowing independent practice will risk replacing MDs/DOs for monetary reasons in administrative decisions, making independent practice for MDs/DOs difficult, resulting in relocating, de-incentivize medical students from choosing Family Medicine.

There is no standardization in the educational institutions and programs currently matriculating NPs. The quality of the education and the core competencies acquired are unpredictable from program to program.

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) agrees:

- Scope of practice is determined by education and training alone. Practicing independently does not change the scope of practice.
- The quality of the education and the core competencies acquired are unpredictable from program to program, highlighting the need for standardization of education.
- APRNs are not required to do residency.
- Population Foci – this cannot be obtained through training or experience alone; NP must have appropriate education for that population.

Public Health and Human Services

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If you have questions or comments, you may call or text our Advocacy Director, Hope Ladner at 601-942-8454.