



March 26, 2021

Dear Senate Public Health, Welfare and Safety Committee:

**MNA fully supports--HB 495- “AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING HEALTH CARE LAWS; CREATING A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER TASK FORCE; ...**

My name is Vicky Byrd, MSN, RN. I am a Montana Registered Nurse (RN) of 32 years and the CEO of the Montana Nurses Association (MNA). MNA is grateful and appreciative of Representative Caferro bringing forward HB 495 to support current practice by updating statute and paperwork issues.

MNA is the recognized leader and advocate for the professional nurse in Montana. MNA is the nonprofit state professional nurses association representing the voice of nearly 3000 Registered Nurses (RNs) in Montana including more than 150 licensed as Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs).

MNA supports the creation of a multidisciplinary healthcare task force to address the many discrepancies and inconsistencies in Montana statute, on DPHHS forms and documents, health insurance, and other documents that require a healthcare provider signature. Many APRNs are forced to have to print off SB 94 “Signature Authority for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses” (that was passed and signed into law last session) when a form or document gets denied or returned (due to outdated signature line etc.) and then, attach the law to the returned or denied document, returning it for further review and approval. This adds to cost, access issues, delays in reimbursements and care, and further inconsistencies, moreover, there is frustration for these practitioners, who many we rely on for primary care in our rural areas and all across the state, who have had full practice authority now for over 45 years.

The bill drafter found over 277 statutes that need clear consistent definitions of healthcare provider and healthcare terms. APRN full practice authority updates, per the Board of Nursing, reported that some statutes were last changed in 1995, then some in 2005, however, the statutes have not been clarified/updated since, driving and supporting this need to update statutes and documents to reflect current practice and for consistent definitions throughout to eliminate confusion.

Respectfully,

Vicky Byrd, MSN, RN  
CEO  
[vicky@mtnurses.org](mailto:vicky@mtnurses.org)  
406-459-2915