



March 1, 2021

Dear Montana House of Representatives:

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, representing the voice of Registered Nurses (RNs) and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) from across the state.

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 have had 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 the signature required, not the practice Montana supports.

There is frustration for these practitioners, who many we rely on for primary care in our rural areas and all across the state, and the patients they serve. The bill drafter found over 277 statutes that need clear consistent definitions of healthcare provider and terms. APRN full practice authority updates, per the Board of Nursing, have not been updated since 2005, therefore this gives us a chance to be proactive and correct our laws and not add to the 277 plus statutes already in need on updating.

Please vote YES on HB 495 so all the regulatory bodies for healthcare can contribute and let the laws reflect healthcare current practice.

Respectfully,

Vicky Byrd, MSN, RN
CEO
vicky@mtnurses.org
406-459-2915