

# Restore Access to Care in New Jersey

## Support S2996

Access to timely, cost-effective health care is critical for healthy communities and New Jersey's future. The state's APNs can help.

For the last 5 years, New Jersey has waived the requirement that Advanced Practice Nurses (APN) have a contract with a physician in order to legally practice their own profession. As the executive order winds down, thousands of New Jersey patients will lose health care access and continuity of their care they have come to depend on since 2020.

Without legislative action, the benefits will go away and disrupt care for patients across the state. After half a decade of improved care, **we can't afford to go backward**, especially when New Jersey's health care needs are increasing.

NJ's more than

# 19,000

**Advanced Practice Nurses are critical to improving health care access and affordable health care options.**

**S2996 Needs to Pass This Session:** NJ needs **proven, no-cost, no-delay solutions** that improve health care access & control costs



### • **Restore Efficiency and Eliminate Unnecessary Costs**

- Retire outdated statute that disrupt care for New Jersey patients and creates unnecessary administrative burdens. Pharmacies, health systems, and providers will again be burdened by a regulation that is known to delay patient care and thousands of patients will face unnecessary challenges in getting their medications and timely care.
- The last 5 years have demonstrated that the Joint Protocol to be irrelevant to care coordination or safety.
- This legislation eliminates the unnecessary regulatory costs to both the state and providers without compromising safety.
- S2996 promotes affordability by reducing costs for patients and families by increasing options and removing delays.
- S2996 would allow New Jersey to meet one of the Rural Health Transformation Program commitments for federal funding.

### • **Strengthen Workforce Recruitment and Retention**

- New Jersey is falling behind and other states are outcompeting us in recruiting for nurse practitioners, certified nurse anesthetists, and certified nurse specialist.
- Our outdated law make NJ less attractive. Especially when more than half of the country—27 states, D.C., and two territories—have already retired their version of the unnecessary Joint Protocol contract.
- These states, including Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, and New York, have a competitive advantage in recruiting Advanced Practice Nurses away from New Jersey.

### • **Maintain health care access**

- New Jersey communities —especially our seniors, individuals with chronic illnesses, underserved populations, and their families —rely on APNs for access to medications, behavioral health care, and disease management. The end of the executive order without modernizing state law jeopardizes health care access and the continuity of this care that patients and communities have come to rely.
- Our state's more than 19,000 Advanced Practice Nurses are essential to meeting the state's health care needs. We can't do that effectively when outdated barriers get in the way.

**Don't let New Jersey go backward. Support and Pass S2996**