

# PRESS PAUSE!

Hold on adopting the APRN Compact



## KEY CONCERNS OF THE APRN COMMUNITY

When done well, interstate compacts have the potential to reduce licensure variability between states and make it easier for clinicians to work across state lines. Unfortunately, the latest version of the APRN Compact falls short. The American Association of Nurse Practitioners® (AANP) and more than 40 other national and state nursing associations **oppose the latest version** of the advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) licensure compact. Together, we're asking state leaders to press pause on adopting this version until stakeholders can come back to the table and resolve these challenges.

### 1. Uniform licensure requirements.

The current version of the APRN Compact imposes new requirements that are **more restrictive** than the laws currently in place in 19 jurisdictions and is out of step with the widely accepted recommendations of national models of APRN regulation.

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**Compacts should *reduce* barriers, *not* impose new obstacles.**

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Crafted prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, this APRN Compact requires 2,080 hours in practice for multistate license eligibility. There is **no evidence** for this new mandate. In fact, multiple states temporarily or permanently waived similar requirements during the public health emergency.

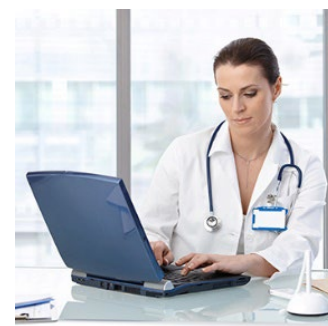
The several years have brought a deeper level of awareness and urgency to correcting licensure issues and retiring unnecessary restrictions. The national interest in workforce development, licensure portability and telehealth have significantly altered the licensure arena and call for fresh approaches in the APRN Compact language.

### 2. Prescribing practices across state lines.

The APRN workforce is crucial to meeting the needs of patients who have behavioral and mental health issues or substance use disorders that require medication-assisted treatment. The current APRN Compact leaves a significant gap around some medications that will impact the capacity of multistate license holders to provide vital access to medications and treatments for these patients.

### 3. Absence of a formal mechanism for APRN representation.

The pandemic has underscored the necessity of having nurses at the table, shaping decisions that impact their professional practice and care of patients. The current version of the APRN Compact does not guarantee that Compact administrators will be APRNs, nor is there an advisory committee to ensure APRN input to the process. Addressing clinician burnout and supporting the APRN workforce requires that their voices are included and the concerns of the APRN community are addressed.



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## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

**1. Press the pause button. Getting APRN Compact provisions *right* is more important than getting it going.**

The APRN community is concerned with this Compact's approach to uniform licensure requirements and prescribing practices across state lines, as well as the absence of a formal mechanism for APRN representation in Compact governance.

The unique nature of Compact legislation across multiple states means that individual states have less flexibility to address these issues. The APRN community is working with patients, licensees, policymaker champions and stakeholder partners to come to the table and refine these mechanisms *before* they become law.

**2. Incorporate lessons from the pandemic.**

The current version of the APRN Compact was drafted in 2019, prior to the events of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

The APRN community is seeking opportunity to revise and negotiate a new version that reflects the new data from states and the lessons learned during the public health emergency.

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**The current version of the APRN Compact was drafted before the COVID-19 public health emergency.**

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**3. Preserve political capital and allow APRNs to regroup, revise and move forward together!**

Historically, prior APRN Compact versions failed to garner enough unified support to become active and take effect. The APRN community is working to come together around a proposal that will garner the broad support needed to ultimately be successful.

Learn more with AANP's APRN Compact resource page: [aanp.org/APRNCompact](https://aanp.org/APRNCompact).

Here, you can read AANP's position statement on the APRN Compact, watch a short video explaining the third version and read the full APRN Compact model legislation.

**Are you considering the APRN Compact in your state? Contact AANP!**

AANP Office of State Government Affairs staff is available for individual state consultation and assistance, legislative support and more. Email [statepolicy@aanp.org](mailto:statepolicy@aanp.org) or reach out to 703-740-2529.

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