

Consumer Support for the **SAVE Act**

“Over 4 million North Carolinians live in the state’s 80 rural counties where primary care physicians are in short supply. In these rural and underserved communities, older adults frequently lack the ability and resources to get to their appointments because of mobility issues, long travel distances to a provider and wait times for appointments. This puts their health at risk and adds stress to family caregivers. AARP is working to eliminate outdated barriers that prevent people from fully accessing the clinical skills that advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) provide.”



- **Charmaine Fuller Cooper**, Associate State Director
AARP North Carolina

“More than anyone else in the state, our patients know the value of access to healthcare in a timely manner. They want to focus on living the best life they can with the time that remains. Allowing these Advanced Practice Registered Nurses to step up and take on a bigger role in North Carolina will provide much needed relief. We trust those nurses to care for our patients with the respect and utmost quality they deserve.”



- **Tim Rogers**, President and CEO
Association for Home and Hospice Care of NC and SC

“The NC Assisted Living Association is fully supportive of the SAVE Act, which will provide more access to patient health care, which is very important to residents of assisted living communities due to the shortage of physicians who are able to provide daily care to assisted living residents, especially throughout the rural communities of North Carolina.



Passage of the bill will improve patient access to care while containing costs without sacrificing quality. Many rural areas throughout North Carolina have a shortage of doctors and the bill’s passage will provide better and easier to obtain patient access to timely and regular health care. This is beneficial to patients, family caregivers and elderly residents of assisted living communities.”

- **Frances Messer**, President and CEO
North Carolina Assisted Living Association

“We feel that The SAVE Act is important to increase access of care for patients. Advanced Practice Nurses have proven for over 45 years that they can do this in North Carolina. Allowing them to practice to the full extent of their training will help remove some of the barriers to even better access.”



- **Kathy Johnson**, Co-Chair, Legislative Committee
North Carolina Citizens for Public Health

“One of the most important challenges facing patients in North Carolina is the shortage and accessibility of health care providers—especially providers who serve in primary care and across the continuum of care in underserved urban and rural areas. A solution to this challenge is direct access to nurse practitioner-provided health care, which nearly half of states and the District of Columbia currently provide. Better access to primary care is critically important in diagnosing and managing chronic illnesses that affect individuals, families, communities and the economic viability of an entire state.



In addition, closing this gap between clinical preparation and regulated practice authority would benefit those North Carolina residents who receive hospice and palliative care -- specialties where there is a current shortage of physician providers. Full practice authority for APRNs will also improve the quality and efficiency of care while eliminating costs associated with outdated bureaucratic requirements that do nothing to enhance safety or quality of care.”

- **Ray Riordan**, VP of Operations
The Carolinas Center