

May 3, 2022

Dear Governor Evers, Secretary Crimm, and Brad Wojciechowski,

I am Dr. Peter Kallio DNP, CRNA, APNP, the current chairman of the Wisconsin Board of Nursing. I also serve as a member of the state Controlled Substances Board. I would like to inform you of my resignation, effective immediately, from the Board of Nursing and the Controlled Substances Board.

I was very discouraged and disheartened by your recent veto of the Advanced Practice Nurses legislation that passed the state legislature on a bipartisan vote. Wisconsin nurses provide top-quality care to our patients every day. After continuous sacrifice and hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic, our nurses were astonished to see this veto. This veto felt like you have a pure disregard for our profession, and frankly your veto message made it clear you and your administration know very little about the day-to-day work of advanced practice nurses in Wisconsin.

During my tenure as Board of Nursing Chairman, the board – by emergency rule - removed all unnecessary barriers to practice during the pandemic. Everyone acknowledges that this was THE BEST STEP to allow advanced practice nurses to care for patients. The emergency rule improved patient access-to-care in our great state. Most importantly, our patients were treated and there were no negative changes in patient outcomes during this time. One of the reasons this was so successful was because the practice of our nurses didn't need to change. The only change was the removal of an administrative step with a physician.

As you are aware, the state faces an extreme nursing shortage - one that existed prior to COVID-19 - and one that has only gotten worse, especially in the rural areas of our state. These are areas where physicians are also in short supply. Removing the unnecessary practice barriers from Advanced Practice Nurses would only increase access to quality care for our rural areas. With no changes, this issue will get exponentially worse with time, a time when we have an aging population.

All research points to the fact, advanced practice nurses are safe and have the same patient outcomes as their physician counterparts. That is why more than 25 states have already reduced practice barriers and more states are considering the change. Most unfortunate for our workforce challenge, this veto will discourage current nurses from moving towards an advanced practice degree, which further erodes access to care. Current advanced practice nurses will move to states where they can practice to the full extent of their scope.

In conclusion, this veto appeared politically motivated to appease a small group of doctors who want to dictate nursing practice and that, unfortunately, makes this Board of Nursing ineffective. It is with extreme disappointment that I can no longer continue in my capacity as the Chairman of the Board of Nursing or as a member. The board has worked extremely hard over the years with no compensation and little recognition. I can no longer continue, when I know that the support of the state government leadership is not supportive of its 90,000 nurses.

Respectfully,

Peter Kallio DNP, CRNA, APNP