

April 12, 2022

The Honorable Liz Snyder  
Alaska House of Representatives  
State Capitol Room 421  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Snyder,

Thank you for sponsoring House Bill 392. My name is Betsy Douds-Paczan. I am a practicing physician assistant in the state of Alaska. I am writing this letter in support of HB 392. HB392 mentions Nurse Practitioners as advanced practitioners. I advocate for adding language which includes Physician Assistants in this bill. PAs are frequently involved in end of life care and HB392 would ensure that they too would have the right to practice to the full extent of their ability for the benefit of the patient.

I have stood at the death bed of friends in the hospital, sat with patients when volunteering with No One Dies Alone, and been at my father's bedside as he passed. The moment of death is a delicate one. When my father died, we had to wait for his care team to find a doctor to declare his death. He had Alzheimer's disease and we had donated his brain for research. They were unable to place the bags of ice on his head for preservation until he had been officially signed off as having passed by a doctor. The care team was in and out of the room discussing what they could or could not do. It was, to say the least, awkward. I support HB392 and its inclusion of Physician Assistants as advanced practitioners. HB392 enables the best care for the patient and their family. Providing compassionate and patient-centered care is our duty as medical practitioners and HB392 has the potential to expand our ability to do so.

Thank you again for your good work,

Betsy Douds-Paczan, MPAS, PA-C  
betsydouds@gmail.com

April 10, 2022

The Honorable Liz Snyder  
Alaska House of Representatives  
State Capitol Room 421  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Snyder,

My name is Christopher Dietrich. I am currently a practicing physician assistant (PA), providing medical care throughout Alaska. This letter supports reducing barriers to care for patients involving advanced health practitioners with HB392. Thank you for sponsoring HB392 as I am advocating professionally for HB392 and offering the support needed in addressing advanced practitioners to coordinate end-of-life care for patients. The current legislation proposed is excellent in that it facilitates care with nurse practitioners in providing care decisions as a team with a patient and their families.

However, the current proposed language has limited advanced practitioners not to include PAs. Frequently this can occur and sometimes not by intent. PAs are advanced practitioners. PAs are often engaged in care teams for patients necessary to provide this level of service that is currently delayed or has barriers. This additional language that specifies Physician Assistants will protect patient care decisions and strengthen healthcare fidelity for all Alaskans.

Thank you again.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Dietrich", written in a cursive style.

Christopher D. Dietrich, PA-C, DSc, PSY-CAQ  
christopherdietrich@gmail.com



3601 C Street, 1420 | Anchorage, AK 99503  
1-866-227-7447 | Fax: 907-341-2270  
aarp.org/ak | alaska@aarp.org | twitter: @aarpalaska  
facebook.com/aarpak

March 25, 2022

House Health & Social Services Committee  
Alaska Legislature  
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: HB392 Support

Dear Reps Snyder, Zulkosky, Spohnholz, Fields, McCarty, Prax, Kurka;

Reliable access to quality health care is a top priority for AARP members in Alaska, including end of life planning and care. It is essential to explore ways for all health professionals to provide services to the full extent of their current knowledge, training, experience, and skills. There are areas where provider shortages limit access to care and where new practitioner types can lead to better and more efficient delivery of care.

HB392 would expand consumer access and choice of health care providers. Specifically, the bill would allow APRN's (Advanced Practice Registered Nurse) to sign Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) and POLST (portable orders for life sustaining treatment) orders along with death certificates, which is well within their education, training, and abilities. This outdated restriction limits consumer access, regardless of the clinician a consumer chooses. The current law is especially problematic for family caregivers. There is always the possibility that a family would need to wait a long time if the contracted physician was out of the country when a nurse practitioner's patient died. This would mean that the family would need to wait until the physician returned before being able to have a funeral. It would be smart and beneficial for Alaska to fully modernize APRN scope of practice laws to provide all Alaskans direct access to all advanced clinicians.

Multiple states have already put patients over paperwork by adopting similar measures, including thirty-four other states that allow patients to have their APRNs sign their POLST forms. It is especially critical for Alaska to fully support family caregivers and to improve patient access to care, especially given the number of patients choosing and relying on nurse practitioners for their primary care needs. AARP Alaska urges you to vote yes on HB 392 and pass it out of committee.

Respectfully, Marge Stoneking  
Advocacy Director, AARP Alaska





School of Nursing  
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

3211 Providence Drive, HSB 101  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508-4614  
T 907.786.4550 • F 907.786.4559  
[www.uaa.alaska.edu/schoolofnursing](http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/schoolofnursing)

March 23, 2022

Representative Liz Snyder, Co-Chair  
Representative Tiffany Zulkosky, Co-Chair  
House Health and Social Services Committee  
Alaska House of Representatives  
State Capitol Building: Rooms 421 and 416  
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Support for HB 392 – EXPAND ADV. PRAC. REG. NURSE AUTHORITY

Dear Madam Co-Chairs,

The UAA School of Nursing would like to express our support for HB 392 “An Act relating to advanced practice registered nurses; and relating to death certificates, do not resuscitate orders, and life sustaining treatment.”

Nurse Practitioners have been recognized by the State of Alaska as independent practitioners since 1984. All Advance Practice Registered Nurses (“APRNs”, including Nurse Practitioners, Certified Nurse Midwives, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthesiologist, and Clinical Nurse Specialists) have been recognized by the State of Alaska as Licensed Independent Practitioners since 2017. The APRNs ability to document a patient’s expected death, authorize a registered nurse to determine and pronounce when that death has occurred, and later certify the death are all clearly within the APRNs scope of practice. This change in statute is also incredibly important in the implementation of the Alaska Physicians Order for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) program across the State of Alaska. Finally, HB 392 will make the implementation of advance directives easier to administer by allowing both physician and APRNs to initiate DNR orders.

The UAA School of Nursing would like to thank the 32<sup>nd</sup> Alaska State Legislature for taking on this issue to ensure Alaska APRNs can operate to the full scope of their practice and that Alaska residents and nursing staff can have the support they need in end-of-life situations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Carla M. Hagen'.

*Carla M. Hagen, PhD, MPH, RN*  
Director, UAA School of Nursing

3/23/2021

Representative Liz Snyder, Co-Chair  
Representative Tiffany Zulkowsky, Co-Chair  
Health and Social Services Committee  
Alaska House of Representatives  
State Capitol Building  
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Support for HB 392

Dear Madam Co-Chairs:

We are physicians from the Interior region of Alaska wishing to voice our support for HB 392. Seriously ill Alaskans and their families struggle to navigate a complex healthcare system; thus, they often struggle to get the care and support that they need. One obstacle for patients and families is that Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) lack Signature Authority for Death Certificates, Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) orders, and the Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) form. HB 392 would eliminate this barrier and improve the ability of APRNs to provide the care to Alaskans.

As physicians working in the Fairbanks and greater Interior Alaska region, we see the impact that APRN's have in serving our patient population. Expanding signature authority will have significant benefit in ensuring that patient's wishes for end-of-life care are honored. Often, these conversations are conducted by the APRN and therefore signing these important documents are best served when signed by the APRN. This streamlines a critical piece of workflow in particular for rural communities so there is not a delay in these important matters.

Granting APRN Signature Authority to DNR orders and/or POLST, and Death Certificates because it decreases delays, costs, and obstructions to patient care. It is the right thing to do for the Alaska people and patients we treat.

We all believe that our patients and families deserve the best care possible. HB 392 will help us deliver that care to Alaskans. We ask your support for HB 392 – we urge you to schedule it for a hearing in your committee at the first opportunity, and then to pass it out in a timely manner.

With respect and kind regards,



Dennis McKevitt, M.D.



Yong Han Kim, M.D.



Barbara Creighton, M.D.



Robert Greenwoon, D.O.



Wendell Eames, M.D.



3760 Piper Street  
P.O. Box 196604  
Anchorage, AK 99508  
t: (907) 562-2211  
[providence.org](http://providence.org)

March 21, 2022

The Honorable Representative Liz Snyder  
Co-Chair, House Health & Social Services Cte  
State Capitol Room 421  
Juneau, AK 99801

The Honorable Representative Tiffany Zulkosky  
Co-Chair, House Health & Social Services Cte  
State Capitol Room 416  
Juneau, AK 99801

Electronic Letter

RE: Providence Alaska Supports House Bill 392: EXPAND ADV PRAC REG NURSE AUTHORITY

Dear Representatives Snyder and Zulkosky,

Providence Alaska has set the standard for modern health care in Alaska for more than 100 years. Today we remain the state's largest health care and behavioral health provider, and the largest private employer, with 5,000 caregivers across Alaska. As the CEO of Providence Alaska Medical Center, I write in support of House Bill 392.

Advance Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) are highly educated, thoroughly trained and well-credentialed health care professionals who serve an important role in the delivery of care.

Alaska is a full scope of practice state meaning licensure and laws permit should align to allow for APRNs to evaluate patients, diagnose, order, and interpret diagnostic tests, and initiate and manage medications. Alaska is the only full scope of practice state without signatory authority for APRNs for Do Not Resuscitate orders, Orders for Life-sustaining Treatment, and death certificates.

HB 392 would align Alaska Statutes with the APRN full scope of practice.  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment and I urge support for HB 392.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ella Goss".

Ella Goss, MSN, RN  
Chief Executive Officer  
Providence Alaska Medical Center  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Providence Alaska Critical Access Hospitals

**From:** Brooks, Paula <Paula.Brooks@foundationhealth.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2022 1:30 PM  
**To:** Rep. Liz Snyder; Rep. Tiffany Zulkosky  
**Cc:** Marianne Johnstone-Petty  
**Subject:** Support of HB 392

3/21/2021

Representative Liz Snyder, Co-Chair  
Representative Tiffany Zulkowsky, Co-Chair  
Health and Social Services Committee  
Alaska House of Representatives  
State Capitol Building  
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Support for HB 392

Dear Madam Co-Chairs:

I am an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse and want to communicate my support for HB 392. Seriously ill Alaskans and their families struggle to navigate a complex healthcare system; thus, they often struggle to get the care and support that they need. One obstacle for patients and families is that Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) lack Signature Authority for Death Certificates, Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) orders, and the Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) form. HB 392 would eliminate this barrier and improve the ability of APRNs to provide the care to Alaskans.

I work in the Palliative Medicine specialty and have conversations with patients and families focusing on their goals of care. Often, patients voice that they wish to live their final days in their home in a rural community or village rather than to be flown to a city and potentially spend their final moments in a hospital setting away from family. To honor their wishes, documentation must be in place, and HB 392 will ease this burden for patients, their families, and the healthcare system as well. It is the right thing to do for the Alaskan people.

In 1984 Alaska was one of the first states in the nation to approve full practice authority for APRNs. There are now 24 states plus Washington D.C. where APRNs have full practice authority. Of those states and D.C., Alaska is the ONLY state that EXCLUDES Signature Authority for all three items of serious illness care, including Death Certificates, DNR orders, and the POLST form. Specific to states without APRN full practice authority, many still choose to grant APRN Signature Authority to DNR orders and/or POLST, and Death Certificates (respectively 10 states and 13 states) because it decreases delays, costs, and obstructions to patient care.

We all believe that our patients and families deserve the best care possible. HB 392 will help us deliver that care to Alaskans. We ask your support for HB 392 – we urge you to schedule it for a hearing in your committee at the first opportunity, and then to pass it out in a timely manner.

With respect and kind regards,



Paula Brooks  
Nurse Practitioner  
Palliative Medicine  
907-458-5132

03/19/2022

Representative Liz Snyder, Co-Chair  
Representative Tiffany Zulkowsky, Co-Chair  
Health and Social Services Committee  
Alaska House of Representatives  
State Capitol Building  
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Support for HB 392

Dear Madam Co-Chairs:

**I am an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse and want to communicate my support for HB**

**392.** Seriously ill Alaskans and their families struggle to navigate our complex healthcare system; thus, they often struggle to get the care and support that they need. One obstacle for patients and families is that Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) lack Signature Authority for Death Certificates, Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) orders, and the Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) form. HB 392 would eliminate this barrier and improve the ability of APRNs to provide the care to Alaskans.

As an APRN and co-owner of Patients First Medical Clinic, LLC, an urgent and primary care clinic serving the public in East Anchorage exclusively by APRNs since 2004, I have seen firsthand how the lack of signature authority affects patients and their families. As a primary care provider, it is my sincere desire to provide the full scope of a patient's care throughout the lifespan. Having to find a physician to sign a death certificate of someone that I have cared for more than a decade and know the desires of a patient more than a consultant is not efficient or helpful to the family as they wait for a death certificate. Similarly, having a strong relationship with a patient allows the frank discussion about advanced directives and Do Not Resuscitate plans. Not being able to sign this document after having the discussion impairs the medical rights of the patient.

In 1984 Alaska was one of the first states in the nation to approve full practice authority for APRNs. There are now 24 states plus Washington D.C. where APRNs have full practice authority. Of those states and D.C., Alaska is the ONLY state that EXCLUDES Signature Authority for all three items of serious illness care, including Death Certificates, DNR orders, and the POLST form. Specific to states without APRN full practice authority, many still choose to grant APRN Signature Authority to DNR orders and/or POLST, and Death Certificates (respectively 10 states and 13 states) because it decreases delays, costs, and obstructions to patient care.

We all believe that our patients and families deserve the best care possible. HB 392 will help us deliver that care to Alaskans. We ask your support for HB 392 – we urge you to schedule it for a hearing in your committee at the first opportunity, and then to pass it out in a timely manner.



Respectfully,

*Lisa M Jackson*

Lisa M Jackson, DNP, FNP, APRN

March 18, 2022

Representative Liz Snyder, Co-Chair  
Representative Tiffany Zulkowsky, Co-Chair  
House Health and Social Services Committee  
Alaska House of Representatives  
State Capitol Building  
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Support for HB 392

Dear Madam Co-Chairs:

My name is Dr. Shannon Hilton, DNP, APRN, I am an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse in the State of Alaska. I am writing today to communicate my support for HB 392, which affects the care and needs of all Alaskans. In Alaska, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses provide a tremendous amount of health care annually and are often the sole providers for patients in communities and villages across the state. In order to provide appropriate care for seriously ill patients one obstacle encountered for patients and families is that Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) lack Signature Authority for Death Certificates, Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) orders, Expected at-home Deaths, and the Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) form. HB 392 would eliminate this barrier and improve the ability of APRNs to provide the care to Alaskans.

As an APRN working in the critical care specialty at two hospitals, I have witnessed first hand the barrier this has caused for patients and providers chronically as well as more acutely during the pandemic. As you may recall, last fall when our hospitals were overrun with critically ill patients and all medical providers were stretched beyond limits, I was presented with multiple instances in which I was the only available provider to engage patients in their last moments prior to intubation or death to address their wishes. However, the barrier of being unable to provide signature authority for a DNR, POLST or other end of life issues created either a delay or unnecessary care for patients and is disrespectful to their wishes. Another difficult scenario I have encountered in my several years of practice in the critical care setting, is that critical care providers are usually meeting patients for the first time when they present to the hospital. Due to the nature of their critical illness they are often unable to communicate their wishes to the provider. The barrier exists when the critically ill patient has an APRN primary care provider with a long standing relationship yet despite that relationship APRNs are not authorized to sign a POLST or DNR agreement to communicate patient's wishes to other providers. Current statute requires that the attending critical care provider who has a minimally established relationship with the patient provide care that may not be the wishes of the patient. The existing barrier of practice to APRN providers, causes patients to lose their autonomy at the hands of a system that is obligated to provide heroic and lifesaving measures by default.

In 1984, Alaska was one of the first states in the nation to approve full practice authority for APRNs. There are now 24 states plus Washington D.C. where APRNs have full practice authority. Of those states and Washington D.C., Alaska is the ONLY state that EXCLUDES Signature Authority for all of these items of serious illness care, including Death Certificates, DNR orders, and the POLST form. Specific to states without APRN full practice authority, many still choose to grant APRN Signature Authority for DNR orders and/or POLST, and Death Certificates (respectively 10 states and 13 states) because the ability to provide such care decreases delays, costs, and obstructions to patient care.

We all believe that our patients and families deserve the best care possible. HB 392 will help us deliver that care to Alaskans. We ask your support for HB 392 – we urge you to schedule it for a hearing in your committee at the first opportunity, and then to pass it out in a timely manner.

With respect and kind regards,

Dr. Shannon Hilton, DNP, APRN  
Board Certified Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner  
Board Certified Adult Health Nurse Practitioner

March 17, 2022

Representative Liz Snyder, Co-Chair  
Representative Tiffany Zulkowsky, Co-Chair

CC: Representative Calvin Schrage, District 25  
Senator Joshua Revak, District M

House Health and Social Services Committee  
Alaska House of Representatives  
State Capitol Building  
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Support for HB 392

Dear Madam Co-Chairs, Representative Schrage, and Senator Revak:

I am a constituent, a Registered Nurse and a Student Advance Practice Registered Nurse, and an Alaskan living with a serious illness, and I wish to communicate my support for HB 392. Seriously ill Alaskans and their families must navigate a complex healthcare system and they often struggle to get the care and support that they need. One obstacle for patients and families is that Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) lack Signature Authority for Death Certificates, Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) orders, Expected at-home Death forms, and the Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) form. HB 392 would eliminate this barrier and improve the ability of APRNs to provide the care to Alaskans.

It does not make sense that an APRN can diagnose a terminal condition and prescribe medications—including opiates—to treat it, but cannot sign the orders and forms required to allow the patient a peaceful and dignified death without unwanted medical intervention or unnecessary post-mortem investigation. This is particularly galling as there are many areas of the state where APRNs are the only health practitioners.

In 1984, Alaska was one of the first states in the nation to approve full practice authority for APRNs. Twenty-four states plus Washington D.C. have granted APRNs full practice authority. Of those states and D.C., Alaska is the *only* state that excludes Signature Authority for all these areas of serious illness care, including Death Certificates, DNR orders, and the POLST form. Even states *without* APRN full practice authority grant APRN Signature Authority for DNR orders and/or POLST (10 states), and Death Certificates (13 states) because it improves the speed and efficiency of patient care, and simultaneously reduces costs.

I know that, as public servants, you believe that our patients and families deserve the best care possible. HB 392 will help us deliver that care to Alaskans. We ask your support for HB 392 – we urge you to schedule it for a hearing in your committee at the first opportunity, and then to pass it out in a timely manner.

Respectfully,



Olivia Kennedy Helprin  
BSN, RN, PCCN, CHPN

3/17/2022

Representative Liz Snyder, Co-Chair  
Representative Tiffany Zulkowsky, Co-Chair

House Health and Social Services Committee  
Alaska House of Representatives  
State Capitol Building  
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Support for HB 392

Dear Madam Co-Chairs:

I am a palliative care physician in Anchorage and I want to express my support for HB392. Seriously ill Alaskans and their families must navigate a complex healthcare system; thus, they often struggle to get the care and support that they need. One obstacle for patients and families is that Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) lack Signature Authority for Death Certificates, Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) orders, Expected at-home Deaths, and the Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) form. HB 392 would eliminate this barrier and improve the ability of APRNs to provide the care to Alaskans, thus increasing the ability for patients to receive the care they need when seriously ill.

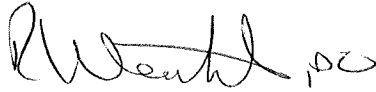
As a physician working for Providence Alaska Medical Center in Anchorage I have seen firsthand how the lack of signature authority affects patient care. My colleagues and I are working with patients on these documents every day, and when my APRN colleagues are not able to sign the paperwork it results in, at best, delays in care for the patients and, at worst, inability for these documents to be completed. Because of the way the bill is currently written it is more likely that our patients are discharged from the hospital without these important forms in their hands. The ramifications of that can be disastrous. In this situation patients who wanted to die peacefully at home instead are likely to have CPR performed on them when EMS arrives. This in turn can result in traumatic experiences for family members who are witnessing this occur to their loved one, or, if "successful", may result in that individual then being brought to the ICU, being on life support and later the family having to decide when to stop these life-prolonging interventions. Either road is traumatic for the family and completely misaligned with patient wishes to have a peaceful death that minimizes suffering. HB 392 would make this scenario much less likely to occur and could change how many Alaskans are supported at end of life.

In 1984, Alaska was one of the first states in the nation to approve full practice authority for APRNs. There are now 24 states plus Washington D.C. where APRNs have full practice authority. Of those states and D.C., Alaska is the ONLY state that EXCLUDES Signature Authority for all of these items of serious illness care, including Death Certificates, DNR orders, and the POLST form. Specific to states without APRN full practice authority, many still choose to grant APRN

Signature Authority for DNR orders and/or POLST, and Death Certificates (respectively 10 states and 13 states) because it decreases delays, costs, and obstructions to patient care.

We all believe that our patients and families deserve the best care possible. HB 392 will help us deliver that care to Alaskans. We ask your support for HB 392 – we urge you to schedule it for a hearing in your committee at the first opportunity, and then to pass it out in a timely manner.

With respect and kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Weicht, DO', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rebecca Weicht Graves, DO  
Palliative Care Physician



Electronic Mail

March 17, 2022

Representative Liz Snyder  
State Capitol Building  
120 4th Street  
Juneau, AK 99801  
[Representative.Liz.Snyder@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Liz.Snyder@akleg.gov)

**RE: ASHNHA Supports HB 392 Expand Advance Practice Registered Nurse Authority**

Dear Representative Snyder,

The Alaska State Hospital & Nursing Home Association (ASHNHA) is a membership organization representing Alaska's hospitals, nursing homes, home health and hospice agencies, and other health care partners. Our mission is to advance the shared interests of the health care industry to build an innovative, sustainable system of care for all Alaskans.

ASHNHA supports HB 392, "An Act relating to advanced practice registered nurses; and relating to death certificates, do not resuscitate orders, and life sustaining treatment."

Nurse Practitioners have been recognized by the State of Alaska as independent practitioners since 1984. All types of Advance Practice Registered Nurses ("APRNs", including Nurse Practitioners, Certified Nurse Midwives, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthesiologist, and Clinical Nurse Specialists) have been recognized by the State of Alaska as Licensed Independent Practitioners since 2017. Documenting a patient's expected death, authorizing a registered nurse to determine and pronounce when that death has occurred, and later certifying the death are all clearly within an APRN's scope of practice. Alaska is the only full scope of practice state WITHOUT signature authority for APRNs for Do Not Resuscitate (DRN), orders for life-sustaining treatment, and death certificates.

This change in statute is also important in the implementation of the Alaska Physicians Order for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) program across the State of Alaska. APRNs work in roles such as primary care providers, palliative care providers, hospitalists in intensive care units caring for patients with COVID and other life-threatening conditions. They lead patients and their families through the advance care planning process, which involves a conversation and completion of the POLST form, but are currently unable to sign the form.



ALASKA STATE HOSPITAL &  
NURSING HOME ASSOCIATION

ASHNHA has been actively involved in the implementation of POLST across Alaska, including providing webinars and developing a website and educational materials. We have heard providers ask many times why signing the POLST form is limited to physicians and physician assistants and question why APRNs cannot sign the POLST form.

Passage of HB 392 will make the implementation of advance directives easier to administer by allowing both physicians and APRNs to initiate DNR orders. This will allow Alaskans throughout the state to receive the care needed when facing a serious illness.

ASHNHA urges the passage of HB 392 to ensure Alaska APRNs can operate to the full scope of their practice and that Alaska residents and nursing staff can have the support they need in end-of-life situations.

Thank you for your consideration and service to our state.

Sincerely,

Jared C. Kosin, JD, MBA  
President & CEO





THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

**Department of Commerce, Community,  
and Economic Development**

BOARD OF NURSING

550 West Seventh Avenue, Suite 1500  
Anchorage, AK 99501-3567  
Main: 907.269.8161  
Toll free fax: 907.269.8156

March 16, 2022

The Honorable Liz Snyder and the Honorable Tiffany Zulkosky  
Co-Chairs, Alaska House Health and Social Services Committee  
Alaska State Capitol, Rooms 421 & 416  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: Support for HB 392 – EXPAND ADV. PRAC. REG. NURSE AUTHORITY

Dear Co-Chairs Snyder and Zulkosky,

The Alaska Board of Nursing would like to express our support for HB 392 "An Act relating to advanced practice registered nurses; and relating to death 2 certificates, do not resuscitate orders, and life sustaining treatment".

Nurse Practitioners have been recognized by the State of Alaska as independent practitioners since 1984. All Advanced Practice Registered Nurses ("APRNs", including Nurse Practitioners, Certified Nurse Midwives, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthesiologists, and Clinical Nurse Specialists) have been recognized by the State of Alaska as Licensed Independent Practitioners since 2017. The APRNs ability to document a patient's expected death, authorize a registered nurse to determine and pronounce when that death has occurred, and later certify the death are all clearly within the APRNs scope of practice. This change in statute is also incredibly important in the implementation of the Alaska Physicians Order for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) program across the State of Alaska. Finally, HB 392 will make the implementation of living will directives easier to administer by allowing both physicians and APRNs to initiate DNR orders.

The Board of Nursing would like to thank the 32<sup>nd</sup> Alaska State Legislature for taking on this issue to ensure Alaska APRNs can operate to the full scope of their practice and that Alaska residents and nursing staff can have the support they need in end-of-life situations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Danette Schloeder".

Danette Schloeder  
Chair, Alaska Board of Nursing

3/11/2022

Representative Liz Snyder, Co-Chair  
Representative Tiffany Zulkowsky, Co-Chair  
Health and Social Services Committee  
Alaska House of Representatives  
State Capitol Building  
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Support for HB 392

Dear Madam Co-Chairs:

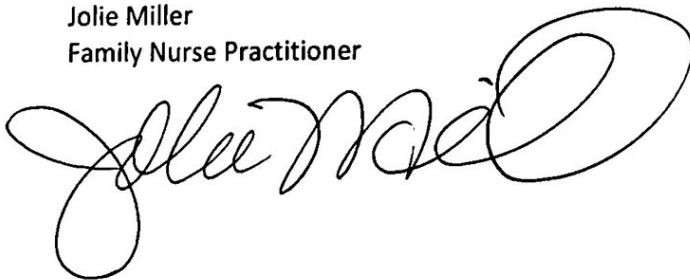
I am a Family Nurse Practitioner in Alaska and want to communicate my support for HB 392. Seriously ill Alaskans and their families struggle to navigate a complex healthcare system; thus, they often struggle to get the care and support that they need. One obstacle for patients and families is that Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) lack Signature Authority for Death Certificates, Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) orders, and the Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) form. HB 392 would eliminate this barrier and improve the ability of APRNs to provide the care to Alaskans. This is especially true in our rural and remote villages, the majority of care provided in these villages is overseen by a Nurse Practitioner or a Physician Assistant.

In 1984 Alaska was one of the first states in the nation to approve full practice authority for APRNs. There are now 24 states plus Washington D.C. where APRNs have full practice authority. Of those states and D.C., Alaska is the ONLY state that EXCLUDES Signature Authority for all three items of serious illness care, including Death Certificates, DNR orders, and the POLST form. Specific to states without APRN full practice authority, many still choose to grant APRN Signature Authority to DNR orders and/or POLST, and Death Certificates (respectively 10 states and 13 states) because it decreases delays, costs, and obstructions to patient care.

We all believe that our patients and families deserve the best care possible. HB 392 will help us deliver that care to Alaskans. We ask your support for HB 392 – we urge you to schedule it for a hearing in your committee at the first opportunity, and then to pass it out in a timely manner.

With respect and kind regards,

Jolie Miller  
Family Nurse Practitioner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jolie Miller', with a large, stylized loop at the end.