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Dear Committee Members,

I have recently read and learned about LD 295 which would allow nurse practitioners to essentially practice independently seeing patients after graduation from their programs without any further clinical/hands on learning. I am concerned that this is simply not enough clinical training to be proficient. Nothing can replace real exposure to practicing medicine with consultant or experienced provider feedback for a reasonable period of time. When it comes to diagnosing and treating disease, it is true that extensive knowledge can be gleaned online or in a book; but it has to be reinforced by real life training of seeing complex patients under the tutelage of a more experienced consultant.

This is especially crucial if they are to practice more rurally where there is a critical need. Often there are not enough of a network of primary care or specialty care experts to offer enough help in support like a large health care centers.

Thank you for allowing me to provide my viewpoint and concern on this important bill.