



National Association of Hispanic Nurses® NAHN is a non-profit professional association committed to the promotion of the professionalism and dedication of Hispanic nurses by providing equal access to educational, professional, and economic opportunities for Hispanic nurses. NAHN is also dedicated to the improvement of the quality of health and nursing care of Hispanic consumers.

POSITION STATEMENT on Advanced Practice Registered Nurses

The National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN) represents approximately 200,000 Hispanic/Latino Nurses. Our members include Nurses in Advanced Practice roles, nursing students, and affiliate members who strongly support this position statement.

Endorsed by the NAHN Policy & Advocacy Committee, March 29, 2016

Approved by the NAHN Board of Directors, April 27, 2016

Background

The Policy & Advocacy Committee of NAHN addresses the challenges and opportunities of providing optimal care for the Hispanic population through collaboration with private, public, and federal entities in matters of public health, including strategies to effectively optimize access and delivery of health services to overcome health inequities among Hispanics. Access to quality care due to a lack of primary care providers contributes significantly to health disparities experienced among Hispanics and other underserved communities.¹ Consistent with the Institute of Medicine's Future of Nursing report², we are well aware of the significant role that Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) take in contributing to a more accessible, high quality, and cost effective health care system for all. Recognizing that there are numerous barriers, including regulatory and policy issues that limit the ability of APRNs to practice to their full scope of education and training, NAHN offers this position statement in order that we may help to inform health care stakeholders, legislative policy leaders, other health care professionals, and consumers on the key role APRNs take in delivering high quality health care to the nation.

NAHN supports state, federal, and organizational policies and regulation that allow nurses, and particularly APRNs, to practice to the full extent of their education and training, to assist in meeting the current and future health care needs of consumers, in order that we may decrease disparities and improve the nation's health.

NAHN supports:

- Legislation that preserves and enhances the specialty role of APRNs and allows for independent practice that enables nurses to function within the full scope of practice and education within the individual state nurse practice act.
- Autonomy and responsibility of individual State Boards of Nursing to define and regulate the practice of nursing.
- Increasing the recognition and optimal value APRNs brings to all emerging and traditional care delivery models including hospitals, long term care facilities, home healthcare settings, community serving institutions, educational institutions, and others.

¹ *Hispanics, Health Insurance and Health Care Access*, Pew Hispanic Center, September 2009. Accessible at <http://www.pewhispanic.org/files/reports/113.pdf>.

² Institute of Medicine. (2010). *The future of nursing: Leading change, advancing health*. Retrieved from http://books.nap.edu/openbook.php?record_id=12956&page=R1

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