



January 23, 2019

The Honorable Jim Wood
Member, California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 6005
Sacramento, CA 95864

**Re: AB 890 (Wood): Nurse Practitioners: scope of practice: practice without standardized procedures
As Amended 1/23/20 – SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Wood:

The Association of California Healthcare Districts (ACHD) is pleased to support AB 890, which would authorize nurse practitioners to practice to the full extent of their education and training without the involvement of physicians.

ACHD represents 79 Healthcare Districts throughout California, in both urban and rural settings. The Districts offer a variety of services aimed at improving community health including acute hospital care, public health services, ambulance services, primary care clinics, dental clinics, and long-term care/skilled nursing. In many instances, Healthcare Districts are the sole source of health care in the community – serving as an integral part of the safety net for the State’s uninsured and underinsured.

Healthcare Districts located in rural and remote areas of the state are continually challenged with recruiting and retaining health professionals, particularly physicians, to their areas. In many communities, physicians cannot support themselves financially in an independent practice. This makes it extremely difficult for rural communities to attract and retain physicians. ACHD has historically supported various efforts to remedy the workforce and access to care challenges faced by Healthcare Districts in rural and underserved areas of the state. AB 890 is just one solution.

According to a recent report published by the California Future Health Workforce Commission, California is projected to have a shortage of 4,103 primary care clinicians by 2030. Additionally, the report concludes that 75% of primary care services could be provided by nurse practitioners and physicians assistants, who are more likely to practice in rural communities than physicians. In fact, the Commission’s report highlighted maximizing the role of nurse practitioners to fill gaps in primary care, as one of their top 10 priorities for increasing the health care workforce in the state.

AB 890 allows nurse practitioners to provide services consistent with their education and training without supervision by a physician. These services, including diagnosing patients, performing therapeutic procedures, prescribing medications and devices, are already being provided to patients throughout the state. Removing the physician supervision requirement for nurse practitioners will allow patients direct access to these services, that may not have access otherwise.

For these reasons, ACHD supports AB 890 and urges your 'aye' vote on this important measure. Should you have any questions about our position, please do not hesitate to call me at 916.266.5207, or email me at amber.king@achd.org with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amber King". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Amber King
Vice President, Advocacy & Membership

cc: Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Bill Lewis, Principal Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus