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January 30, 2014

State Representative Scott Krug
Room 208 North, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53708

Regarding AB 633 – Request for inclusion of Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Prescribers (APRN-Ps) as a health care professional eligible to sign disability verification form.

Dear Representative Krug,

On behalf of the Wisconsin Nurses Association and the 5,000-plus Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Prescribers (APRN-Ps) I would like to thank you Representative Krug for introducing AB 633.

WNA's Public Policy Council members did not review AB 633 when it was first introduced on January 21, 2014 as we believed that APRN-Ps were already identified as one of the health professionals eligible to verify their patient's disability for the purposes of obtaining a fishing license. However, after a recent review of AB 633 page 3, Section 4. 29.193 (2) (b) 2 we realize that APRN-Ps are omitted in Lines 12 through 13. APRN-Ps are Registered Nurses with a graduate degree in nursing that prepares them for primary care and other health care provider roles. Nurse Practitioners (NPs) are APRN-Ps who work as primary care providers throughout Wisconsin's primary care clinics.

The problem for APRN-Ps is that they cannot fully meet the need of their patient with a disability who wants a fishing license because they cannot sign the verification form as they are not an identified provider in the statute. The APRN-P must find a physician to sign the form. This creates an inconvenience for the physician who has to take time to review the form and if there are any questions must send it back to the APRN-P for clarification which then goes back to the physician.

This is an inconvenience for the patient who needs to wait for a physician to sign the form, which may take a couple of days, and having to make another drive to the clinic to pick up the form.

It is for the reasons stated above that WNA request that APRN-P be added to AB 633. I apologize for the lateness of this request but we find this as an opportunity to better meet the needs of patients with disabilities who are requesting a fishing license. APRN-Ps have the education, experience and competence to determine if their patient is eligible for obtaining a fishing license as person with a disability. The APRN-P should be able to finish this process by signing the verification form for their patient.

Please feel free to contact me or our contract lobbyist, Forbes McIntosh if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gina Dennik - Champion".

Gina Dennik-Champion
WNA Executive Director