

City of Detroit

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TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: David Whitaker, Director 
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: November 13, 2023

RE: **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MICHIGAN SENATE BILL 279**

Council President Mary Sheffield requested that the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) draft a RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MICHIGAN SENATE BILL 279

Please contact us if we can be of any further assistance.

BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT MARY SHEFFIELD

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MICHIGAN SENATE BILL 279

WHEREAS, The mission of the Detroit City Council is to promote the economic, cultural and physical welfare of Detroit's citizens and residents through Charter-mandated legislative functions; and

WHEREAS, In the field of medicine, primary care is the principal form of care fundamental to effective and affordable health care, provided by clinicians who are able to address a large majority of health needs, develop a sustained partnership with patients, and practice in the context of family and community.; and

WHEREAS, According to the National Library of Medicine, there is data that indicates there is a growing shortage of primary care providers. While physician interest in primary care has plummeted, nurse practitioners numbers have risen, from 30,000 in 1990 to 140,000 in 2010. The majority of 89 % of nurse practitioners have a primary care focus. The nurse practitioner workforce can be expanded with less training time than that for physicians. Nurse practitioners can provide about 90 % of primary care services commonly provided by physicians, with at least comparable outcomes and at lower cost; and

WHEREAS, Many duties of a physician and a nurse practitioner can overlap, but a nurse practitioner's role differs from a doctor's in flexibility and scope. A nurse practitioner, for example, can often be available to patients who need immediate care sooner than from a doctor, allowing nurse practitioners to serve as a frontline of defense in helping patients; and

WHEREAS, The Controlled Substances Act, the statute establishing federal U.S. drug policy under which the manufacture, importation, possession, use, and distribution of certain substances are regulated, passed by the 91st United States Congress and was signed by the President of the United States, as Title II of the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970, organized narcotic substances into five categories, or "schedules." The controlled substances under the categories of schedules II to V are - **Schedule II** substances include: Methamphetamine, cocaine, fentanyl, Vicodin, oxycodone, and Adderall; **Schedule III** prescriptions include: Anabolic steroids, testosterone, and ketamine; **Schedule IV** prescriptions include Xanax, Ambien, Ativan, and Valium; and **Schedule V** prescriptions include: Cough suppressants; and

WHEREAS, On April 20, 2023, the Michigan State Senate introduced Senate Bill (SB) 279, sponsored by State Senator Jeff Irwin, joined by State Senators, Outman, Geiss, Santana, Bellino and Chang. As proposed, this bill would allow nurse practitioners in the state of Michigan to prescribe controlled substances included in schedules II to V without delegation from a physician; and

WHEREAS, As of 2022, according to the National Nurse-Led Care Consortium (NNCC), 25 states allow nurse practitioners to prescribe to the full extent of their practice authority, including Alaska, Arizona, Hawaii, Maine, New York, and Oregon. Washington, D.C., also allows it. As of 2022, according to the NNCC, 25 states impose restrictions on the ability of nurse practitioners to prescribe to the full extent of their practice authority. These states include California, Florida, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Texas. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, That the Detroit City Council, urges that the Michigan legislature, and the Governor, support SB 279 of 2023, in order to empower nurse practitioners to practice to the full extent of their education and training. **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution shall be provided to the Detroit delegation of both the Michigan Senate and House, the State Senate Committee on Health Policy, Governor Gretchen Witmer, Mayor Mike Duggan, GCSI the City of Detroit's lobbying firm in Lansing, as well as media and residents.