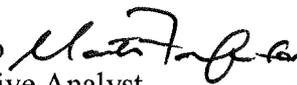


**REPORT OF THE
CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST**

DATE: June 12, 2019

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations
Committee

FROM: Sharon M. Tso  Council File No: 19-0002-S103
Chief Legislative Analyst Assignment No: 19-06-0594

SUBJECT: Resolution to support AB 890

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the Resolution (Ryu – Cedillo) to include in the City’s 2019 – 2020 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for AB 890 (Wood), which would authorize a nationally certified nurse practitioner to practice without physician supervision in specified settings.

SUMMARY

The Resolution (Ryu – Cedillo), introduced on June 5, 2019, states that a report from the California Future Health Workforce Commission estimates that in 10 years California is projected to face a shortfall of 4,103 primary care clinicians. Los Angeles County is already experiencing shortfalls of primary care, dental care, or mental health providers. Nurse practitioners (NPs), registered nurses with additional education and qualifications who can deliver a broad range of services, can help fill the gaps arising from a shortage of primary care clinicians. Requirements for NPs to practice and prescribe with physician oversight have been shown to lead to lower supply of NPs and poorer access to care for State residents.

The Resolution further states that AB 890 would allow NPs to provide specified medical services, without physician supervision, if the NP works in specified settings or the NP meets necessary education requirements. It would help reduce barriers to care in Los Angeles and the rest of California. The Resolution therefore requests that the Council support AB 890.

BACKGROUND

Existing law provides for the regulation and licensure of the practice of nursing by the Board of Registered Nursing (BRN). It also requires NPs to meet various requirements as follows: hold a valid and active registered nursing license; possess a master’s or graduate degree in nursing, or a master’s degree in a clinical field related to nursing; and complete a BRN-approved NP program. Existing law also authorizes a NP to order durable medical equipment, certify disability in collaboration with a physician and surgeon, and approve a plan of treatment in consultation with the treating physician and surgeon.

AB 890 would expand the role of NPs. Under the proposed legislation, NPs would be authorized to perform specified functions without supervision by a physician and surgeon, including ordering and interpreting diagnostic procedures, certifying disability, and prescribing, dispensing, and administering controlled substances. NPs would be required to complete a transition to practice

program and to hold certification as an NP from a national certifying body recognized by a new board, the Advanced Practice Registered Nursing Board.

Currently, there are 25,000 certified NPs in California. 22,000 NPs are also authorized to order and furnish drugs and devices to patients using approved standardized procedures. The bill's author has noted that of 139,000 licensed physicians in California, only 32% are primary care physicians. Moreover, access to primary care physicians varies greatly by region. One of the recommendations from the California Health Workforce Commission, comprised of some of California's leading health philanthropies, was to allow full practice authority for NPs.

Supporters, namely the California Association of Nurse Practitioners and the California Hospital Association, argue that AB 890 will increase access to care, reduce paperwork burdens for NPs and physicians, and promote high-quality primary health care. Opponents, including the California Medical Association and other physician associations, contend that the bill lacks critical details surrounding a competency assessment and that more investments should be directed into growing the physician workforce. The California Nurses Association is also concerned about the creation of a new board and the associated revenue loss to the BRN.

BILL STATUS

2/20/2019	Read first time. To print.
3/04/2019	Referred to Business and Professions Committee.
4/11/2019	From committee: Amend, and do pass as amended and re-refer to Appropriations Committee (16-0).
5/15/2019	In committee: Set, first hearing. Referred to Appropriations suspense file.
5/16/2019	In committee: Hearing postponed by committee.



Tim Plummer
Analyst

SMT:tcp

Attachments: Resolution (Ryu – Cedillo) in support of AB 890

RESOLUTION

RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal governmental body must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, a report from the California Future Health Workforce Commission, the creation of some of California's leading health philanthropies, estimates that in 10 years the State is projected to face a shortfall of 4,103 primary care clinicians; and

WHEREAS, Los Angeles County, the Inland Empire, and the San Joaquin Valley, as well as many rural areas, are already experiencing shortfalls of primary care, dental care, or mental health care providers; and

WHEREAS, nurse practitioners (NPs), registered nurses with additional education and qualifications who can deliver a broad range of services, including the diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic illnesses, can help fill the gaps arising from a shortage of primary care clinicians; and

WHEREAS, California is currently the only western state that requires NPs to practice and prescribe with physician oversight, and such restrictions have been shown to lead to lower supply of NPs and poorer access to care for State residents; and

WHEREAS, AB 890 (Wood) would allow NPs to provide specified medical services, without physician supervision, if the NP works in specified settings or the NP meets necessary education requirements; and

WHEREAS, AB 890 would help reduce barriers to care in Los Angeles and the rest of California; and

WHEREAS, the City has an interest in ensuring that its residents have access to affordable, high-quality medical care;

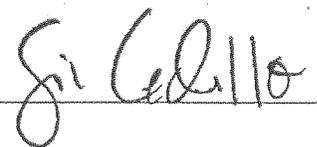
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2019-2020 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for AB 890 (Wood), which would authorize a nationally certified nurse practitioner to practice without physician supervision in specified settings.

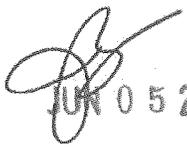
PRESENTED BY:


DAVID E. RYU

Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY:




JUN 05 2019

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