

Press Release...

from the Illinois House of Representatives

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 29, 2015

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

State Rep. Sara Feigenholtz
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Feigenholtz's Measure Improving Access to Health Care Becomes Law

CHICAGO, IL – Legislation sponsored by State Representative Sara Feigenholtz (D-Chicago) giving advanced practice nurses broader authority within their scope of practice was signed into law by Governor Rauner today. After months of negotiation, the measure passed both chambers unanimously.

House Bill 421 removes some barriers that had prevented APNs from fully utilizing their skills and training. Under the new law, there will no longer be a required written collaborative agreement between APNs and physicians in certain circumstances.

“Giving APNs more flexibility in their practice ultimately improves patient access to care and reduces patient wait times,” said Feigenholtz. “Over the past few years, there has been tremendous growth in Illinois’ eligible Medicaid population. This new law eliminates redundant paperwork and gives all health professionals greater freedom to provide quality health care to some of the neediest, hardest-to-reach populations.”

“Team practice is the future in health care. All parties who worked on this legislation did so to ensure patient safety, create new opportunities for health care professionals, and most importantly, meet the needs of patients,” said Feigenholtz.

The bill allows for APNs and physicians to more broadly determine the relationship of their team practice by eliminating the mandate that each service an APN may provide be specifically delegated and listed in a written collaborative agreement. It also gives APNs the ability to work within their scope of practice rather than that determined by the collaborating physician.

For more information, contact Feigenholtz’s constituent services office at (773) 296-4141 or sara@staterepsara.com.

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