

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 4 - 0 - 1
Yeas: Gordly, Kruse, Courtney, Monnes Anderson
Nays: 0
Exc.: Carter
Prepared By: Shannon Strumpfer, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 4/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Prohibits prepaid managed care health service organizations that contract with Department of Human Services from excluding nurse practitioners from panels of service providers.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Access to health care
- Inconsistent access in some regions of the state

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: A nurse practitioner (NP) is a registered nurse who has completed advanced education and training in the diagnosis and management of common medical conditions, including chronic illnesses. Nurse practitioners provide a broad range of health care services. Nurse practitioners provide much of the same care provided by physicians and maintain collaborative working relationships with physicians.

A primary care physician, or PCP, is a health care provider who provides both the first contact for a person with an undiagnosed health concern as well as continuing care of varied medical conditions. A PCP is usually the first medical practitioner contacted by a patient, due to factors such as ease of communication, accessible location, familiarity, and increasingly issues of cost and managed care requirements. Many health maintenance organizations position PCPs as "gatekeepers", who regulate access to more costly procedures or specialists. The primary care physician acts on behalf of the patient to collaborate with referral specialists, coordinate the care given by varied organizations such as hospitals or rehabilitation clinics, act as a comprehensive repository for the patient's records, and provide long-term management of chronic conditions.