

April 1, 2026

House Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs Committee

Dear Chair MacDonald, Vice Chair Mazur and all distinguished members of the House Health, Human Service and Elderly Affairs Committee,

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on SB 453, regarding adding advanced registered nurse practitioners and physician assistants to the list of providers able to certify necessary medical equipment needs. My name is Alicia Plemmons, PhD, and I am an assistant professor and director of the Knee Regulatory Research Center at West Virginia University. This comment is not submitted on behalf of any party or interest group.

My research studies patient outcomes in terms of safety, quality, cost, and access under different practice arrangements. This past year, my team has undergone an extensive review of the scope of practice laws for several professions. I find it is always useful to know what similar states and professions are doing for context to these nuanced changes.

While some groups may see this bill as an overstep, we find that it is largely a clean-up bill that brings certification authority in-line with the existing regulations for advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants. These professions are heavily involved in primary care and in working with patients with long-term managed conditions, which often need this certification process for necessary durable medical equipment or tags. We find it is uncommon for states with similar regulatory scope of practice to not allow these two professions to perform this task.

This bill better aligns New Hampshire policy across professions, and in a way that has become the norm across states. After an extensive data review, we have not found evidence of safety concerns resulting from this policy expansion in other states.

Best,



Alicia Plemmons, PhD
Director, Knee Regulatory Research Center