

# Pennsylvania's No-Cost P.A.T.H. Forward: Patient Access To Health Care — at No Cost!

Pennsylvania faces a growing healthcare access crisis — especially in rural and underserved communities. Full Practice Authority (FPA) for nurse practitioners is a proven, bipartisan solution already adopted by **27 states, Washington, D.C., and the entire VA health system.**

## THE CHALLENGE FACING PENNSYLVANIA

- **An aging population** with increasing demand for primary and chronic care
- **Fewer physicians entering family medicine**, worsening provider shortages
- **Hospital and maternity ward closures** and **reduced mental health services**, especially in rural areas
- **Pennsylvania is losing federal healthcare dollars** to states that have already granted FPA

## WHAT IS FULL PRACTICE AUTHORITY?

Full Practice Authority allows NPs to **practice to the full scope of their education and training**, without the burdensome requirement of **paying two physicians** for collaborative agreements.

- FPA does **not eliminate patient-centered collaboration** between NPs and physicians.
- It **removes unnecessary administrative and financial barriers** that limit care.
- Clinical standards and licensure **remain unchanged.**

## WHAT FPA DELIVERS FOR PENNSYLVANIANS

### Expanded Access to Care

- Increases the number of NPs practicing in PA.
- Improves access to primary and mental health care — especially in rural and underserved areas.

### More Federal Dollars for PA

- States with FPA received significantly **more federal healthcare funding per rural resident: \$497 compared to \$57.**<sup>1</sup>
- Helps bring resources back to Pennsylvania communities that need them most.

### Lower Healthcare Costs — *With No New Spending*

- Eliminates costly, mandatory collaboration fees paid to physicians, reducing unnecessary overhead and helps control healthcare costs system-wide.
- **No new programs, and no taxpayer funding required.**

### Proven Quality and Safety

- **More than 300 peer-reviewed studies** show patient outcomes under NP care **are equal to or better than** physician-only models.

### A Stronger Healthcare Workforce

- Stops the exodus of Pennsylvania-trained NPs to neighboring FPA states like **New York, Maryland, and Delaware.**
- Encourages providers to live, work, and invest in local communities.

## THE ASK: THE P.A.T.H. FORWARD

FPA is a common-sense, evidence-based reform that **puts patients first, expands access to care, strengthens the workforce, draws more federal dollars, and costs the Commonwealth nothing.**

**Put patients first. Eliminate barriers to care.**

Pass **SB 25** and **HB 739** — the no-cost P.A.T.H. forward for PA patients. Pennsylvanians, providers, and communities **cannot afford to wait.**

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (n.d.). URBAN AND RURAL. Decennial Census, DEC Demographic and Housing Characteristics, Table H2. Retrieved January 22, 2026, from <https://data.census.gov/table/DECENNIALDHC2020.H2q=H2&d=DEC+Demographic+and+Housing+Characteristics>.