

By: Bell

H.R. No. 459

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Nurse practitioners contribute immeasurably to the
2 health and wellness of countless people in the State of Texas, many
3 of whom turn to nurse practitioners for their primary care needs;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Nurse practitioners are health care providers with
6 the expertise to order and perform diagnostic tests, diagnose and
7 treat acute and chronic conditions, and prescribe medications and
8 other treatments; to become nurse practitioners, registered nurses
9 must undergo a rigorous process of national certification, and they
10 are subject to periodic peer review and evaluation to ensure that
11 they adhere to a high standard of practice; nurse practitioners
12 must also complete a master's degree program, and an increasing
13 number hold doctorates as well; and

14 WHEREAS, These qualified medical professionals attend to the
15 health care needs of people in a diverse range of health care
16 settings, which include hospitals, private offices, schools, state
17 and local health departments, urgent and long-term care facilities,
18 and retail-based clinics; nearly one-fifth of them practice in
19 rural areas with populations of fewer than 25,000 people, providing
20 quality care where access might otherwise be limited; and

21 WHEREAS, In addition to the clinical services that they
22 offer, nurse practitioners are trained to advise clients on disease
23 prevention and assist them in making informed health and lifestyle
24 choices; this holistic approach is shown to help lower overall

1 costs and result in fewer emergency room visits and shorter
2 hospital stays for patients who choose nurse practitioners as their
3 primary care providers; and

4 WHEREAS, Currently, there are more than 200,000 licensed
5 nurse practitioners in the United States, and over 13,000 are
6 estimated to be practicing in Texas; at a time when the state is
7 facing a significant and growing shortage of health professionals,
8 nurse practitioners are ideally positioned to help alleviate the
9 overburdened medical system, particularly in underserved areas
10 that stand to benefit most from their presence; and

11 WHEREAS, With the expert care and personalized treatment that
12 they administer every day, nurse practitioners play an
13 indispensable role in health care delivery, and this special
14 observance provides an opportunity to extend appreciation to those
15 individuals who choose this demanding yet vital profession; now,
16 therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
18 Legislature hereby recognize February 11, 2015, as Nurse
19 Practitioner Day at the State Capitol and commend nurse
20 practitioners for the health care services they provide.