Missourians are sicker and die earlier than most Americans\(^1\)

Advance-practice registered nurses (APRNs) could ease the shortage of providers, but state regulations hold them back.

Legislators can enact a policy-based solution
Missouri law severely restricts the ability of APRNs to help patients. Please follow the lead of 22 states (and Washington, DC) that permit them to use all of their abilities. APRNs:

- improve healthcare access and outcomes\(^a\)
- provide care that’s comparable to physicians and less costly\(^b\)
- are more likely than physicians to practice in inner cities and rural areas\(^c\)
- are more likely to treat no- or low-pay patients\(^d\)
- are growing quickly in numbers — about 9 percent per year vs. 1 percent for physicians\(^e\)

1 billion visits
Nationwide in 2017, advance-practice nurses handled more than 1 billion patient visits.\(^2\) APRNs include nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, nurse anesthetists and clinical nurse specialists. They are educated to handle a range of health needs, including high blood pressure, diabetes, asthma, depression, anxiety, heart disease, back pain, arthritis, thyroid dysfunction, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, prenatal care, well child exams and vaccinations.

DID YOU KNOW? Citizens in states that let APRNs do their jobs are healthier\(^f\) and have lower rates of costly hospitalizations.\(^3\)

Missourians are less healthy than most Americans\(^1\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years of potential life lost before age 75 per 100,000 population</th>
<th>Poor physical health days per month</th>
<th>Poor mental health days per month</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YEARS</td>
<td>DAYS</td>
<td>DAYS</td>
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<tr>
<td>8000</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>MO: 7,800</td>
<td>USA: 6,700</td>
<td>USA: 3.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DID YOU KNOW? Over 50 years of research shows that APRNs provide safe, high-quality care.\(^4\)
**DID YOU KNOW?** A White House study from December 2018 that concluded that APRNs should have full practice authority.12

### Health Provider Shortages
In Missouri, 97 percent of counties have **severe shortages** of primary care providers (green map) or **mental health providers** (blue map) or both. Advance-practice registered nurses, or APRNs, could ease the shortfalls.

United States Department of Health and Human Resources. Health Resource & Services Administration. Available online at data.hrsa.gov/day/tools/MapTool.aspx#

### DID YOU KNOW? APRNs score high on patient-satisfaction and low on rates of malpractice claims.1 4

The trend toward APRNs having full scope of practice
By 2018, APRNs were granted full scope of practice in **22 states** (and Washington, DC) and somewhat reduced scope of practice in **16 states**. Missouri was among **12 states** classified as having restricted APRN practice.

[Image of map showing states with full and restricted practice]

**How to save $1.2 billion**
The Missouri Foundation for Health estimates that, by lifting restrictions on APRNs, Missouri could save **$1.2 billion over 10 years.**4 Current restrictions include costly and cumbersome requirements that physicians supervise APRNs. Research shows that such supervision does not improve care quality.12

**DID YOU KNOW?** Physician income does not decline in states that allow APRNs to use their education and training.6