



Team-based Care: A Case Study from Tennessee

Despite [overwhelming support for APRN Full Practice Authority](#), the American Medical Association (AMA) launched a campaign “Physician-Led Team-Based Care” to sideline efforts at gaining FPA for APRNs. Their message is simple: physicians must supervise all members of the healthcare team. One example of a state where this campaign was effective in preventing the passage of a FPA bill is Tennessee. The AMA supported legislation called the “Tennessee Healthcare Improvement Act of 2015.” The bill was designed to further limit APRN practice, and actually spelled out health care conditions that were deemed to require physician supervision. Among the “complex conditions” were pregnancy, hypertension and being twelve years of age and younger. This bill, if passed, would have resulted in increased restrictions, limited access to care and increased health care costs in a state with poor health outcomes (Tennessee Healthcare Improvement Act of 2015, 2015). The bill was not passed, but was successful in stalling full practice authority legislation. If legislation like this continues to be introduced at the state level, movement of FPA legislation will be greatly impacted.

Even though the Tennessee Healthcare Improvement Act of 2015 was defeated in committee, the Tennessee Nurses Association (TNA) FPA bill was never heard in the 2015 General Assembly. Subsequently, stakeholders held a meeting and decided to move the scope of practice (SOP) debate out of the legislative arena. A task force bill was introduced and passed, creating a task force comprised of key stakeholders appointed by the legislature. While this sounded like a move in the right direction, it has resulted in a stalemate to date. The APRN stakeholders and the physician stakeholders fundamentally disagree on the leadership and supervision of the health care team. The Tennessee Nurses Association reports they are experiencing many of the distractions and distortions outlined by the [Nebraska Nurses Association when the NNA was on their journey to FPA](#).

Below are links to critical documents and the video of the committee hearing:

- [The Tennessee Health Care Improvement Act of 2015](#)
- [The Tennessee Medical Association \(TMA\) outlines a Blueprint for Team-Based Care in accordance with all time physician supervision and leadership](#)
- [The Tennessee Nurses Association responds to the TMA’s Blueprint for Team-Based Care](#)
- [The committee hearing where the Tennessee Health Care Improvement Act of 2015 was defeated](#)
- [The Tennessee Nurse summarizing their experiences in the legislative arena. See pages 10-11](#)
- [The task force bill](#)