

**BEFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

**TESTIMONY OF WHITMAN-WALKER HEALTH ON BILL 22-333,  
THE ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE SIGNATURE AUTHORITY  
AMENDMENT ACT OF 2017  
September 28, 2017**

Pursuant to the Committee’s Notice of Hearing, Whitman-Walker Health (WWH or Whitman-Walker) is pleased to submit this written testimony in support of Bill 22-333, the “Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Signature Authority Act of 2017.”

As a federally qualified community health center with special expertise in LGBT health and HIV treatment and prevention, WWH provides the highest quality medical, dental and mental health care, legal assistance, and community health services to the greater Washington’s diverse community. In 2016, Whitman-Walker served more than 16,000 patients, and is projected to surpass that number this year.

Whitman-Walker strongly supports this bill to amend the District of Columbia Health Occupations Revision Act of 1985, and allow Advanced Practice Registered Nurses to sign, certify, stamp, or endorse healthcare-related documents within their scope of practice. APRNs play critical roles in the health care system. Their importance is likely to increase in the future. As noted in a 2016 report by the Association of American Medical Colleges, the United States is likely to experience a shortage of physicians over the next decade. Whitman-Walker commends this bill, which will better leverage the skills of APRNs and increase the efficiency of health care delivery.

Whitman-Walker Health, and many other community-based health centers, rotate medical providers between sites, including sites operated by community-based organizations that lack their own licensed medical providers. Authorizing APRNs to provide more care without requiring physician counter-signatures will enable them to provide more and more efficient care where it is greatly needed. Furthermore, providing additional authority to APRNs could incentivize some healthcare professionals to seek opportunities for professional advancement.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views. If we can be of further assistance, please contact Guillaume Bagal, (202) 797-4421, [gbagal@whitman-walker.org](mailto:gbagal@whitman-walker.org).

Respectfully submitted,

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