Senate of Puerto Rico
Health Commission
Capitolio Núm. 1
Plaza de la Democracia
San Juan, PR. 00901

November 12, 2025
RE: Support for Senate Bill 757

Dear Hon. Juan Oscar Morales Rodriguez and members of the Health Commission,

The American Association of Nurse Practitioners® (AANP) is the largest professional membership organization for nurse practitioners (NPs) and represents the interests of the more than 431,000 NPs nationwide. AANP is committed to empowering all NPs to advance high-quality, equitable care, while addressing health care disparities through practice, education, advocacy, research, and leadership. **On behalf of our Puerto Rico members, AANP appreciates the opportunity to provide comment in support of Senate Bill 757 as introduced.**

S. 757 would harmonize the Pharmacy Law to be consistent with current nurse practitioner prescribing rules, established in the 2015 Law to Regulate the Practice of Nursing. Existing Puerto Rico law authorizes NPs to prescribe medications for their patients and S. 757 would make needed conforming changes to authorize pharmacists to fill those prescriptions.

Puerto Rico, like other U.S jurisdictions, faces complex challenges to ensuring that residents have timely access to high-quality health care. Compounding that challenge is this disconnect between prescribing laws. Our members share how this is delaying treatments and creating unnecessary complications for patients. S. 757 offers a no added cost, no delay solution to improving health, and more efficiently and effectively using Puerto Rico's health care workforce to meet the territories growing health care needs.

As you may know, NPs are advanced practice registered nurses who are prepared at the masters or doctoral level to provide primary, acute, chronic and specialty care to patients of all ages and backgrounds. Daily practice includes assessment; ordering, performing, supervising and interpreting diagnostic and laboratory tests; making diagnoses; initiating and managing treatment including prescribing medication and non-pharmacologic treatments; coordinating care; counseling; and educating patients and their families and communities. NPs hold prescriptive authority in all 50 states, the District of Columbia (D.C.), Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam and the

Northern Marina Islands and provide nearly one billion patient visits annually. Puerto Rico is the only jurisdiction where pharmacists are unable to fill the prescriptions written by nurse practitioners.

We respectfully request the Health Commission's support in advancing this important legisaltion. Should you have questions or comments, please contact Tay Kopanos, Vice President State Government Affairs at tkopanos@aanp.org or 512-492-5451.

Sincerely,

Tay Kopanos
Vice President AANP State Government Affairs