



10401 Linn Station Road, #121 | Louisville, KY 40223
1-866-295-7275 | Fax: 502-423-7031 | TTY: 1-877-434-7598
aarp.org/ky | kyaarp@aarp.org | twitter: @aarpky
facebook.com/AARPKentucky

February 9, 2021

Dear Senator,

During the pandemic, home health services have become increasingly utilized as hospitals had to adapt to preserve bed capacity as they cared for COVID-19 patients. According to the Center for Medicaid Services one in 10 patients that are discharged will receive home health services. That's one of the many reasons why AARP is writing to support **SB 154 (Senator Tom Buford)**, which would modernize Kentucky's nursing laws so that Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) can be reimbursed by health insurance providers for home health services.

SB 154 allows APRNs and Physician Assistants to be qualified to be able to prescribe and supervise home health services. This needed change would improve access to important home health services and potentially prevent the need for many hospital and nursing home admissions—all of which are costly to the consumer and the taxpayer. And, according to the Kentucky Department of Insurance SB 154 does not increase costs of health care to the commonwealth or administrative costs to insurers.

AARP is committed to the idea that consumers should have access to health care providers across a variety of settings that keep them living a high-quality life, with dignity, in locations of their choice. APRNs are a vital resource in this endeavor, especially in health professional shortage areas such as urban and rural regions.

If passed, **SB 154** will promote a free market by removing barriers preventing APRN's from doing their jobs, help fill the gap created by the state's physician shortage, better equip Kentucky for the COVID-19 pandemic, and could potentially save taxpayers money. If you have questions or if there is further information we can provide, please feel free to contact Eric Evans at (502) 744-5064. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ron Bridges'.

Ron Bridges
AARP State Director

AARP
Real Possibilities

