



The Honorable Michele Brooks
Chairwoman
Health & Human Services Committee
Pennsylvania State Senate
Room 168 Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3050

The Honorable Art Haywood
Chairman
Health & Human Services Committee
Pennsylvania State Senate
Room 10 East Wing
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3004

Dear Chairpersons Brooks and Haywood,

We are writing to express the Pennsylvania Homecare Association’s strong support for Senate Bill (SB) 1080, sponsored by Sen. Lynda Schlegel Culver, which addresses an important issue for hospice care across the Commonwealth. SB 1080 is currently pending consideration by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. The Pennsylvania Homecare Association, representing over 700 home health, hospice, and homecare members, advocates for policies that enhance the quality of care for patients and support the dedicated professionals who provide this care.

Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) provide intimate, hands-on care for hospice patients throughout Pennsylvania. Their role is critical, offering compassionate and essential services to patients and families during the hospice experience. However, under the current Vital Statistics Law of 1953, the ability to pronounce a patient's death is restricted to Registered Nurses (RNs), medical doctors, physician assistants, and coroners. This limitation prevents LPNs from performing a function for which they are more than qualified, causing unnecessary delays and resource allocation challenges for hospice providers.

LPNs are not prohibited from pronouncing death under the applicable scope of practice law and are competent to serve this function. Virginia enacted legislation in 2022 to permit hospice LPNs to pronounce death for hospice patients, setting a precedent for similar action in Pennsylvania.

Hospices across the state are facing workforce shortages and must allocate finite resources efficiently to serve their patients best. We urge you to support Senate Bill 1080. This legislative change will help alleviate workforce strains and allow hospice agencies to allocate care and resources more effectively, ultimately benefiting patients and their families during a most critical time.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your commitment to improving hospice care in Pennsylvania. We appreciate your support for this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Mia Haney
CEO

Alexandra McMahon
Director – Government Relations

Your *partner* in
bringing *care home*