



# ALLOW HOSPICE LPNS TO PERFORM **DEATH PRONOUNCEMENTS**

## BACKGROUND

Licensed practical nurses (LPNs) provide critical, hands-on-care for hospice patients across the Commonwealth. However, they are unable to make death pronouncements for their hospice patients.

The Vital Statistics Law of 1953 currently limits the ability to pronounce death to registered nurses (RNs), medical doctors, physician assistants, and coroners.

## CALL TO ACTION

**Support Senate Bill 1080 sponsored by Sen. Lynda Culver allowing hospice LPNs to make death pronouncements for their patients.**

This will help to alleviate workforce strains and allow agencies to allocate care and resources to best meet the needs of their patients and families.

## OUR POSITION

- LPNs are not prohibited from pronouncing death in the applicable scope of practice law, deeming them competent to perform this work.
- Hospices across the state face workforce shortages and must allocate finite resources to best serve their patients.
- LPNs are more than qualified to perform death pronouncements, allowing hospices to allocate resources as deemed most appropriate for patient care.
- Virginia enacted legislation in 2022 to permit hospice nurses to pronounce death for hospice patients.