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The New Jersey State Nurses Association (NJSNA) has fully endorsed Full Practice Authority (FPA) for Advanced Practice Nurses (APNs) in New Jersey since the late 1990s.

During the public health emergency, from April 2020 through February 2026, a Governor's Executive Order permitted APNs to practice without a written collaborating agreement with a physician. Throughout this period, there has been no documented evidence that the suspension of the collaborating agreement requirement resulted in increased malpractice claims or incidents reported to the New Jersey Board of Nursing, and patients continue to receive safe, high-quality care.

APNs have served, and will continue to serve, as essential healthcare providers for thousands of New Jersey residents, particularly in meeting critical mental health and primary care needs in underserved communities.

In January 2026, the Executive Order was rescinded. As a result, effective February 16, 2026, APNs will once again be required to maintain a collaborating agreement with a physician. NJSNA strongly opposes this rescission and supports legislation to permanently remove this unnecessary barrier to full practice authority for all APNs.

New Jersey's nursing community stands united in support of APNs practicing to the full extent of their education, training, and certification, free from outdated and unnecessary restrictions.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judy Schmidt".

Judith Schmidt, DHA, MSN, RN
CEO, New Jersey State Nurses Association / Institute for Nursing