

## OPPOSE HB 336 Nurse Practice Act Amendments

- We are fine with deleting the requirement to check the Controlled Substances Database.
- The only point of disagreement is whether a nurse practitioner should be able to prescribe Schedule II substances right after graduation ***without any requirement for consultation or referral.***
- Physicians who have graduated with their MD degree cannot prescribe independently for the first year or two after graduation. They must have a fully licensed physician supervising them.
- The restriction on nurse practitioners only applies to controlled II level substances, which are the most addictive types of drugs. This includes oxycodone, fentanyl, opium, hydrocodone, methamphetamine, etc. and only for the nurse practitioner's first two years or for 2000 hours, whichever comes first.
- These substances are the ***core of the opioid epidemic and we have been working on reducing the opioid epidemic, this being one of the pieces to that.***
- Utah must not remove the requirement that currently requires new, inexperienced nurse practitioners to prescribe opioids with some oversight.
- We have offered a compromise to allow a nurse practitioner to enter into a consultation and referral plan with ***an experienced nurse practitioner instead of just a physician***, but the nurse practitioners rejected our offer and are not willing to discuss any compromise. Again, the requirement is only for two years or 2000 hours, whichever comes first until they have clinical experience.
- We negotiated this compromise just a few years ago, so this compromise that we already have was only put in place a few years ago.
- Just about half of the other states require either a consultation and referral agreement with a physician (not just for controlled II substances but for everything) for more than two years or 2000 hours, or even full supervision, period.
- The vast majority of Nurse Practitioners work for a physician's clinic/office or in a hospital and a few work for another Nurse Practitioner in their clinic/office. Very, very few would come out of school and be able to open up their own clinic/office.