



RECEIVED

MAR 03 2023

ARIZONA STATE SENATE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

KATIE HOBBS  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF ARIZONA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

March 3, 2023

Senator Warren Petersen  
President of the Senate  
1700 W. Washington Street

Re: SB 1248,

President Petersen,

Today, I vetoed SB 1248.

I appreciate the legislature's interest in the scope of practice expansion, and agree that we need to make the sunrise application process more effective, efficient, and fair. However, repealing the sunrise application for scope of practice expansion altogether without replacing it with a better mechanism will not address the underlying issues, and poses a threat to the health and safety of Arizonans.

The sunrise application process for scope expansions provides the legislature, health care practitioners, and the public an opportunity to weigh in on potential scope of practice expansions. As a legislator, I sat on the Committee of Reference that reviews scope of practice expansions for providers, and know how powerful this Committee can be when our legislators engage fully and openly in the process.

Scope of practice expansions are serious matters that should be considered with a critical eye to preserve the health and safety of our constituents. Some expansions provide authority to prescribe dangerous and/or addictive substances, to perform medical procedures, or to practice medicine with less supervision. Some are much more mundane, but that does not mean that they should not be held to some level of scientific and public health scrutiny.

Without the sunrise application process, provider groups could fast-track their priorities through the legislative process without adequate attention to why the change is necessary, or if it will impact communities with the greatest needs.

While I am vetoing this effort to do away with the sunrise process altogether, I am committed to working with the legislature and our healthcare provider communities to identify an alternative pathway toward scope of practice expansion. I hear the concerns of providers hoping to expand care in communities where it is most needed, and I am committed to helping promote a culture of health in Arizona.

It's clear that there is an imbalance of power between high-level and low-level providers, and that the current structure of our boards and commissions does not provide equal weight to their professional and financial interests. I welcome ideas to rebalance and right-size our regulatory boards and commissions, as well as policy solutions that will reduce the regulatory and administrative burden on health care provider groups.

We can and we should work together to identify health policy opportunities that will promote equitable access to care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Katie Hobbs', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Katie Hobbs  
Governor  
State of Arizona

Cc:

Speaker Toma  
Senator Shope  
Secretary of the Senate  
Chief Clerk of the House