



EMERGENCY NURSES  
ASSOCIATION

Maryland State Council

Safe Practice Safe Care

To: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East Miller Senate Building, Annapolis, MD 21401

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From: Maryland State Council of the Emergency Nurses Association

Date: March 9, 2020

Re: Maryland Emergency Nurses Association requests a **FAVORABLE** vote on  
SB 846 **Peace Orders - Workplace Violence**

Good afternoon Chairman Smith, Vice Chairman Waldstreicher and members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee. My name is Margo Mancl and I am speaking on behalf of the Maryland State Council of the Emergency Nurses Association. We are in favor of Senate Bill 846, which would allow a peace order to be filed by EMPLOYERS when workplace violence is committed against an employee.

Maryland Emergency Nurses are on the front line of caring for patients during high stress situations. It is estimated that 100% of ER nurses report experiencing verbal abuse, and 70% report being physically assaulted by patients in the ER. Many times, patients threaten to find us and kill us and our families. Often, nurses say that they won't report their violent attacks or verbal threats out of fear that their attackers will locate them and follow through on the threats.

Last year an ER nurse from Queen Anne's ER testified before the House Judiciary Committee that after a patient punched her in the face and head, the patient also threatened to find her and kill her and her family. The nurse felt that she absolutely had to file charges in order to protect the lives of her family and identical twin sister. If her employer had filed the charges on her behalf, she would have felt an extra layer of protection because identifying information would

not have been available to the patient. This peace order modification will make it easier for ER nurse victims to report violent events and take appropriate legal steps against their aggressor. This will ultimately improve safety in this volatile workplace.

For those of us who work every day to provide compassionate care to the very people who commit crimes against us, SB 846 would be extremely helpful.

Thank you.

*Margo E. Mancl*

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