



Oppose

House Bill 702 – Higher Education – Standardized Tests – Prohibition of Use in Student Admissions

House Appropriations Committee

February 17, 2021

The Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) opposes *House Bill 702* Higher Education – Standardized Tests – Prohibition of Use in Student Admissions. The bill would prohibit any State public institution of higher education from requiring an applicant to submit a standardized test score as part of the admissions process.

MNA recognizes and supports the need for diversity and inclusion in admission to colleges and universities. Evidence is mixed on predictability of standardized test scores and success in general studies in higher education, but evidence indicates a need for objective criteria beyond grade point averages for success in programs that require passing a state licensure examination, such as the National Council Licensure Exam-Registered Nursing (NCLEX-RN).

Studies indicate positive correlations between standardized test scores and success in degree programs for registered nurses. Research showed that students who scored below a minimum threshold on a reliable and valid standardized admission test specific for nursing programs were significantly less likely to graduate.¹ College and university programs that lead to health care professions with licensure examinations are rigorous, requiring advanced reading, problem solving, and critical thinking skills. The use of high school grade point averages as the only measure to predict success in education programs that prepare health care professionals is insufficient and may ultimately put the accreditation for professional nursing programs in jeopardy. Standardized test scores serve as one of many variables and metrics used to predict success for students who will become the health care providers for Maryland citizens.

MNA recommends an unfavorable vote. If we can provide any assistance with this legislation, please contact Robyn Elliott at (443) 926-3443 or relliott@policypartners.net.

¹ Rolf, M., Kroposki, M., and Watson, S. (2019). Quantitative evaluation of variables to student success in a mastery learning baccalaureate nursing programme. *Nursing Open*, 6(2): 959-965, doi: [10.1002/nop2.278](https://doi.org/10.1002/nop2.278)

The Maryland Nurses Association, a constituent member association of the American Nurses Association (ANA), representing Maryland's professional nurses since 1904

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