



Maryland
Hospital Association

February 16, 2021

To: The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair, Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee

Re: Letter of Support - Senate Bill 476 - Health Occupations – Nurses – Delegation of Tasks

Dear Chair Pinsky:

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) 60 member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 476.

SB 476 clarifies that under current practice Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) can delegate nursing tasks to an unlicensed person, such as a medical assistant, if the person has medical training, only performs tasks he or she is trained to do and has on-site supervision from the delegating APRN. SB 476 also clarifies a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse can delegate a technical task other than a nursing task to an unlicensed individual, like an assistant. The bill requires the Maryland Board of Nursing to promulgate regulations to provide guidance and ensure delegation is safe.

Entrusting nursing tasks to other team members, when appropriate, is common in the health care field. The American Nurses Association and the National Council of State Boards of Nursing reference delegation as a critical competency for registered nurses, which must be taught and practiced in order to be proficient in delivering care.^{1,2} Since licensure as a registered nurse is a prerequisite for APRNs, these providers should be able to delegate nursing tasks.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Maryland's health care workforce rose to the challenge, supplemented by retired medical professionals, students, and volunteers. By 2030, many of the state's 24 jurisdictions are expected to have shortages in primary care, mental health, and addiction providers.³ It is vital that to maximize the existing health care workforce by promoting efficiency and effectiveness to ensure Marylanders have access to the highest quality of care.

For these reasons, we urge a *favorable report* on SB 476.

For more information, please contact:
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¹ American Nurses Association. (2012). "[ANA's Principles for Delegation by Registered Nurses to Unlicensed Assistive Personnel \(UAP\)](#)."

² National Council of State Boards of Nursing. (April 29, 2019). "[National Guidelines for Nursing Delegation](#)."

³ IHS Markit. (n.d). Maryland Primary Care and Selected Specialty Health Workforce Study