

TESTIMONY

SB 476/HB 95 -Health Occupations-Nurses-Delegation of Technical Tasks

Position: Support

Committees: Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs; House Health and Government Operations

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am an adult nurse practitioner living in Queen Anne's County and I recently retired from a specialty practice on the Eastern Shore. I am a member of the Maryland Medical Reserve Corp and will be working with the Covid 19 vaccination program in Baltimore City, Anne Arundel County and other jurisdictions as needed. I am writing today in support of **SB 476/HB 95 – Health Occupations – Nurses – Delegation of Technical Tasks.**

SB 476/HB 95 provides that an advance practice registered nurse (APRN) may delegate a technical task to an unlicensed or certified individual if that individual has been properly trained, has demonstrated competency and is appropriately supervised. **SB 476/HB 95** will clarify the ambiguous language in the Nurse Practice Act to specifically include APRNs.

In my work with the Covid 19 vaccination program, I must be able to delegate tasks in order to maximize my efficiency in safely educating, vaccinating, and monitoring Maryland's underserved and vulnerable populations.

In fact, it has come to my attention, that because many Covid vaccination sites are not staffed with a physician, medical assistants who would typically be able to vaccinate are not allowed to volunteer. As the Covid 19 vaccine program continues to expand we are going to need as many vaccinators as possible to meet the need, especially in rural and underserved areas of the state.

When I delegate a technical task, it allows me to provide services commensurate with the education, training and expertise required by my profession. This team approach to the care of patients is the hallmark of high quality healthcare leading to excellent outcomes which is my number one goal. **SB 476/HB 95** will greatly improve the ability of all APRNs to achieve this goal.

The coronavirus pandemic has created an unprecedented crisis in Maryland. It has never been more vital for me, and providers at all levels, to practice efficiently, effectively, and safely to meet the healthcare needs of all Marylanders. **SB 476/HB 95** is a necessary means to that end.

I appreciate your consideration of this bill and I respectfully encourage a favorable report on **SB 476/HB 95**. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Kathrine Ware, RN, MSN, CRNP

warekathrine@gmail.com

530-220-9085