



Board of Nursing

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Acting Secretary

March 19, 2021

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: HB 1167 – Maryland Nondiscrimination in Health Care Coverage Act – Letter of Support

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Nursing (“the Board”) respectfully submits this letter of support for House Bill (HB) 1167 – Maryland Nondiscrimination in Health Care Coverage Act. This bill requires a health care provider or health care institution to ensure the provision or continuation of life sustaining care under certain circumstances. This bill authorizes a certain health care provider or health care institution to transfer a patient to another health care provider or health care institution under certain circumstances and in a certain manner. Additionally, this bill requires an agency proposing certain measures to post for public comment certain information and consult with certain organizations and representatives.

Equity is an essential proponent in the field of nursing and medicine. It speaks to the quality of being fair and advocates for the rights of individuals to make medical decisions for their own health and wellbeing. Equity, although found in all fields of nursing, is crucial in life sustaining and palliative care. Life sustaining care calls into question the moral and medical obligation advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) have in caring for their patients. Nursing decisions are not only based on best practices, but also heavily rely on collaboration and consultation with the patient and their family members. This not only allows APRNs to tailor medical treatment, it additionally allows the patient to feel supported and understood. The Board strongly supports the engagement of a patient in the decision-making process.

For the reasons discussed above, the Board of Nursing respectfully submits this letter of support for HB 1167.

I hope this information is useful. For more information, please contact Iman Farid, Health Policy Analyst, at (410) 585 – 1536 (iman.farid@maryland.gov) or Rhonda Scott, Deputy Director, at (410) 585 – 1953 (rhonda.scott2@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Hicks', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Gary N. Hicks
Board President

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.