



Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill Number: House Bill 1389 – Maryland Department of Health – Prevent Workplace Violence in Health Care Settings Public Awareness Campaign Workgroup

Hearing Date: March 16, 2022

Position: Support with Amendment

The Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) supports with Amendment *House Bill 1389 – Maryland Department of Health – Prevent Workplace Violence in Health Care Settings Public Awareness Campaign Workgroup*. This bill will (1) establish a workgroup to develop awareness campaigns on preventing workplace violence in health care settings; (2) accommodate patients with mental health disorders, substance use disorders, and disabilities in the development of the campaign; and (3) create a plan for implementing the campaign, including distribution in health care settings.

The Maryland Nurses Association serves as the voice of nurses and advocates for excellence in nursing and the highest quality healthcare for all. A top priority for MNA is workplace violence prevention, as nurses face some of the highest rates of violence in the workplace. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that violent events accounted for 12.2% of all injuries to registered nurses in 2016.ⁱ The RN rate of 12.7 violent events per 10,000 full-time workers is about three times greater than for all other occupations.ⁱⁱ Unfortunately, workplace violence is often underreported because of a fear of retaliation, lack of clear reporting methods, and a belief that nothing will be done.

The workgroup will collaborate in efforts to raise the profile of the workplace violence in health care settings among the public and policy makers. The public is generally aware of the health care workforce shortage, but may not be aware of the impact of workplace violence on individual's decisions to enter or remain in the health care workforce or certain health care settings.

MNA requests one small amendment to clarify that the reach of the workgroup includes our partners in the State’s attorney offices who support nurses in navigating the legal process for those cases in which criminal charges are being explored.

On page 2 in line 30, strike “AND” and insert “ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE MARYLAND STATES ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION; AND”

On page 3 in 16 insert after “STATE”, “AND RAISE AWARENESS WITHIN THE LEGAL COMMUNITY”

Thank you so much for the opportunity to submit testimony. We ask for a favorable report with our recommended clarifying amendments. If you should have any questions, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

ⁱ [https://www.aacn.org/blog/preventing-workplace-violence-in-healthcare#:~:text=Looking%20specifically%20at%20nurses%2C%20a,3.8%20cases%20per%2010%2C000%20workers\).](https://www.aacn.org/blog/preventing-workplace-violence-in-healthcare#:~:text=Looking%20specifically%20at%20nurses%2C%20a,3.8%20cases%20per%2010%2C000%20workers).)

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