



EMERGENCY NURSES
ASSOCIATION

Maryland State Council
Safe Practice Safe Care

To: Maryland House Judiciary Committee
House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

From: Maryland State Council of the Emergency Nurses Association

Date: March 8, 2022

Re: HB 1154 Criminal Law – Felony Second–Degree Assault – Emergency
Medical Care Workers
Oral and written testimony
Maryland Emergency Nurses Association requests a FAVORABLE vote

Good day Chairman Clippinger, Vice Chair Moon, and Committee members,

My name is Rosina Gonzales. I am the current Marketing Chair for the Maryland Emergency Nurses Association. I am testifying on behalf of ENA, in favor of HB 1154 Criminal Law – Felony Second–Degree Assault – Emergency Medical Care Workers. I have worked as an Emergency Department nurse for the past 9 years and I am currently the assistant manager for a community hospital located in South Baltimore.

On January 2, 2022 I was working night shift when a patient became irate demanding food from staff after multiple meals have been provided. The patient picked up and threw a computer, phone and battery charging station striking a nurse and our ED physician. Staff called both our campus security and the police

in fear for our safety. The police were given a report of the battery. Staff and security even offered to pull security footage of the incident but police declined. Instead of accountability the patient was transported by police to another emergency department further endangering more staff.

Staff feel completely unsupported in having a safe environment to provide care for patients. Caring for patients is their life's work. They often start in nursing with the expectation that they will frequently be verbally and physically assaulted as part of the job. We are in support of this bill so that we can change the climate of emergency nursing to create an environment of zero tolerance of violence.

Thank you,

Rosina Gonzales, BSN, RN
Marketing Chair
Emergency Nurses Association
410-530-3920
rosina_madej@yahoo.com