



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 William Taylor. I am the current nursing practice 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.

In addition, I have been an emergency department nurse for 8 years and I am currently the nursing manager of a community hospital located in southern Baltimore City. I have personally felt the effects of workplace violence against emergency department staff and have seen its effects on others. Not only has the workplace violence itself negatively impacted the safety of the environment, but

the lack of accountability and legislative repercussions has had tremendous impacts on the morale of emergency department staff.

Just this past week I have seen the lack of trust in the judicial system by a nurse in my department. Several months ago, this nurse was assaulted while caring for a patient. This patient was well known to the department and was regularly difficult but had no history of being violent towards staff. She went into his room to discharge him and was choked. She was unable to yell for help or get away until he decided to release his hands. She made the decision to press charges. She went to court several times, all of which resulted in the accused not showing up, and the charges were eventually dismissed.

Last week this same nurse was transporting a patient in stretcher. Throughout their visit the patient had been insulting, and verbally assaultive but again never physically assaultive. The patient then made the decision to grab her hand and repeatedly slam it into the rail of the stretcher, resulting in her finger being likely fractured. Based on her past experiences, she made the decision to not press charges, because in her words “why should I waste my time”.

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