



Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill Number: Senate Bill 154 - Public Health – Mental Health Advance Directives – Awareness and Statewide Database

Hearing Date: March 28, 2023

Position: Support

The Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) supports *Senate Bill 154 – Public Health – Mental Health Advance Directives – Awareness and Statewide Database*.

A psychiatric advance directive is an empowering tool that allows a person to state their wishes in case they are ever deemed incapable of making sound decisions themselves. Unfortunately, many people do not know about psychiatric advance directives, or how to complete one in Maryland. This bill will address this issue by requiring the Maryland Department of Health to develop and implement a public awareness campaign.

An important mission of nurses is to make sure the voice of each patient is heard. This bill will enable our members to better support the interests of our patients when they are faced with situations where they are unable to make such decisions on their own. The bill includes a study of the feasibility of creating an online system for mental health advanced directives.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.