



Committee: House Ways and Means Committee

Bill: House Bill 618 - Maryland Parental Rights Act

Hearing Date: February 24, 2022

Position: Oppose

The Maryland Nurses Association strongly opposes *House Bill 618 – Maryland Parental Rights Act*. The bill criminalizes any violation of a health care practitioner’s statutory responsibility to obtain consent for delivering services to a minor. This measure is extreme as health care practitioners are not criminalized in this manner in any other part of the Maryland code. We are concerned that this bill will limit the number of health care practitioners willing to serve minors, as they would be at risk for criminal penalty for a mistake rather than an intentional act.

Maryland should always prioritize the somatic, behavioral, and dental health of our youth. Now more than ever, we need to ensure there are enough providers for our youth because they are in crisis. We ask for an unfavorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.