

February 13, 2023

Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee
241 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: HB 278: Health Occupations - Clinical Nurse Specialists – Prescribing

Dear Madame Chair,

As an organization whose mission is to positively impact the well-being of every individual in our community, I am writing to express our support for Delegate Bonnie Cullison's HB 278: Health Occupations - Clinical Nurse Specialists – Prescribing

Frederick Health is committed to evidence-based care in our hospital and in our community. It is our team of health professionals, especially our Clinical Nurse Specialist team, who have expertise in the delivery of high-quality healthcare that impacts outcomes for the patients we serve. As care has transitioned out of the hospital and into the community, gaps in care have emerged especially in remote areas with limited access to qualified health care providers. Care provided in the community to avoid hospital readmission has become a priority. Outpatient clinics can care for patients until they can see their provider and keep patients out of the hospital, improving their health and well-being. These clinics could be run by Clinical Nurse Specialists, however at this time, they cannot adjust medications, order durable medical equipment, home health care or other necessary therapies to support patients at home.

In order to continue our mission to positively impact the well-being of every individual in our community, we fully support the House Bill 278 granting prescriptive authority to Clinical Nurse Specialists.

Sincerely,



Cheryl Cioffi, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, FACHE
Senior VP, Chief Operating Officer