



# Board of Nursing

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Ryan Moran, DrPH, MHSA, Acting Secretary

March 25th, 2025

The Honorable Joseline Pena-Melnyk  
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee  
Room 240  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: SB 277 – Health Equality for Service Members Act**

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Nursing (the Board) respectfully submits this letter of support as amended for SB 277 Health Equality for Service Members Act.

This bill establishes rules of interpretation related to the uniformed services; alters the rule of interpretation for "veteran"; and alters the application of certain provisions of law governing public health, the regulation of health occupations, and housing vouchers and assistance to apply to all uniformed services, rather than only the armed forces. The Board supports the bill's intentions in supporting veterans, and thanks the sponsor for accepting the Board's amendments. As such we ask the Committee for a favorable report on the bill.

Thank you again for your time. For more information, please contact Ms. Mitzi Fishman, Director of Legislative Affairs, at 410-585-2049 or [mitzi.fishman@maryland.gov](mailto:mitzi.fishman@maryland.gov), or Ms. Rhonda Scott, Executive Director, at 410-585-1953 or [rhonda.scott2@maryland.gov](mailto:rhonda.scott2@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

Christine Lechlitter  
Board President

**The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.**