



MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL HEALTH NURSES

Bill: House Bill 331
Senate Bill 605

Title: Public Schools – Medical Cannabis – Guidelines for Administration to Students

Position: Oppose

Date: February 18, 2020

Committee: House: Ways and Means and Health and Government Operations
Senate: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs and Finance

The Maryland Association of School Health Nurses (MASHN) is committed to promoting health and wellness for our students and our communities; we are dedicated to providing all students with the tools necessary to be successful in school.

Nurses in our State are bound by the Maryland Nurse Practice Act which ensures patient safety. In order to administer medication, we must have an order from an authorized prescriber who will provide us exact directions and serve as a resource to report efficacy and possible side effects. In Maryland an authorized prescriber is a physician, nurse practitioner, certified midwife, podiatrist, physician's assistant or dentist, (Section 12-101(b), Health Occupations, Annotated Code of Maryland). Additional information needed to administer medications in school include a diagnosis, name of medication to be administered, dosage, time of administration, route of administration, duration of medication order. (Administration of Medication in Schools, Maryland State School Health Services Guideline, 2006; updated 2015).

When considering medical cannabis, there is no prescriber and no order to direct our nursing care. Additionally, the Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission states that "in the case of a minor patient (under 18 years of age), only the minor patient's parents or legal guardians, themselves aged 21 years or older, are eligible to serve as caregivers". Under these requirements, nurses are not permitted to administer medical cannabis.

MASHN respectfully asks that you consider the position of the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) which states that "only FDA approved cannabis/marijuana medications be allowed in the school setting". According to The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN): "Without evidence that is scientifically rigorous, reportable, and based upon the student population, safe administration of cannabis has not been established for use in the school setting" (NCSBN, 2018).

Due to the logistical implications and safety concerns, MASHN is opposed to the implementation of Bills HB 331 and SB 605.