

February 7, 2020

Senator Delores Kelley, Chair, Senate Finance Committee
Delegate Shane Pendergrass, Chair Health & Government Operations

Dear Senator Kelley and Delegate Pendergrass,

I am writing in support of House Bill 317 & Senate Bill 541, Mental Health – Involuntary Admission – Procedures.

Currently, psychiatric nurse practitioners are not allowed to complete the initial evaluation for involuntarily admitted patients or offer testimony during administrative law hearings. Psychiatric nurse practitioners are fully capable of assessing an involuntarily admitted patient and offer detailed testimony of patient care during administrative law hearings. This change would allow for an increased number of clinicians to initiate treatment and ensure patient safety.

Please vote in favor of these bills.

Sincerely,


LMSW

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Sincerely,

Melanie Harris, LCSW-C