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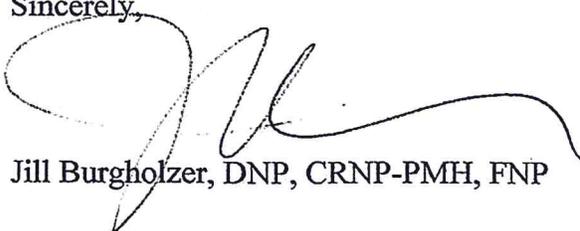
February 17, 2020

Greetings Senator Kelley and Committee,

I am a doctorally prepared psychiatric nurse practitioner with privileges at six hospitals in Maryland. Due to the shortage of psychiatrists there are many times when I am the sole provider on the inpatient psychiatric unit at these facilities. On a regular basis I have to delay admission or turn away involuntary patients who presented to the emergency department when there was not a psychiatrist on duty within the 24 hour timeframe. Many times I had a bed available, in their home community hospital, which makes this situation even more senseless. I have also had a public defender object to me providing testimony on a patient who I had cared for during their inpatient hospitalization because I was a nurse practitioner and not a psychiatrist.

On behalf of these vulnerable citizens, please support SB 541.

Sincerely,



Jill Burgholzer, DNP, CRNP-PMH, FNP