

House Bill 317
Senate Bill 541

February 3, 2020

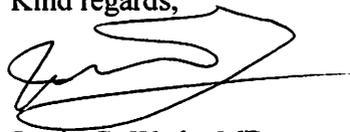
Greetings,

I am writing this letter in support of House Bill 317 and Senate Bill 541 regarding *Mental Health – Involuntary Admissions* which proposes the addition of Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners as professionals qualified to perform the initial psychiatric examination which is required within 24 hours of involuntary admission on an inpatient psychiatric unit and provide testimony at involuntary hearings.

As a psychiatrist on the Eastern Shore I can attest to the lack of psychiatrists in this rural area which often results in a delay in care. I have trained and worked with psychiatric nurse practitioners on inpatient mental health units. Performing the initial psychiatric examination on involuntary patients and testifying on behalf of the patients they have cared for during their inpatient mental health hospitalization is within the scope of Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners education and licensure.

Please vote favorably on House Bill 317 and Senate Bill 541 to increase access to safe, timely care for patients hospitalized on an involuntary basis.

Kind regards,



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Board Certified Child, Adolescent, Adult Psychiatrist