

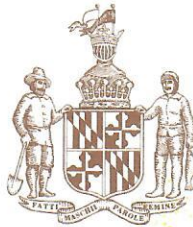
DANIEL L. COX
Legislative District 4
Frederick and Carroll Counties

Judiciary Committee

Subcommittees

Family Law

Public Safety



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 2, 2020

HB 612 Labor and Employment—Health Care Facilities – Workplace Safety Programs

Dear Chair Pendergrass, Vice-Chair Pena-Melnyk and committee members:

I appreciate this opportunity to present to you proposed legislation which if adopted would aid in keeping our state's nurses more safe. According to the American Nurses Association, 1 out of 4 nurses are assaulted on the job. In the past nurses and other health care providers have called violent assaults "a silent epidemic." However, they are silent no more. Last year, my first year in the General Assembly, my office was deluged with over 1000 emails from nurses all over the state concerned about their personal safety. Indeed, I was flabbergasted at the magnitude of violence against nurses in the workplace.

Nurses as you well know are on the front lines of our health care delivery system; making their jobs easier, clearly is in the best interest of the people of Maryland.

I have learned a great deal about the dilemma that the professional nurses face and the problems of legislating solutions. So, I amended this bill to focus on reporting requirements in the hopes that we, state officials, and the health communities can get a better understanding of the problems facing nurses as they care for the sick and injured. With this information, I believe that more aggressive legislation should be pursued in the future.

I would request a favorable report for HB 612 with amendments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "D. Cox".

Daniel L. Cox