



Board of Nursing

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Acting Secretary

February 16, 2021

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: Senate Bill 476 – Health Occupations – Nurses – Delegation of Tasks – Letter of Support

Dear Chair Pinsky and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Nursing (“the Board”) respectfully submits this letter of support for Senate Bill (SB) 476 – Health Occupations – Nurses – Delegation of Tasks. This bill provides that a registered nurse, a licensed practical nurse, and an advanced practice registered nurse is not precluded from delegating a nursing or other technical task to an unlicensed individual under certain circumstances. SB 476 also allows a registered nurse, a licensed practical nurse, and an advanced practice registered nurse to delegate a nursing or other technical task to an assistant with medical training if the assistant performs only tasks that the assistant is trained and able to perform.

The Board supports the delegation of nursing tasks by the registered nurse (RN), licensed practice nurse (LPN), and advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) as a necessary means of providing effective and efficient care to patients. Although APRNs work with medical assistants daily, our Nurse Practice Act precludes them from delegating to medical assistants. This bill recognizes current practice.

The Board supports the APRN having the ability to delegate nursing or other technical tasks to an assistant. SB 476 appropriately reflects current practice in that assistants are only performing tasks that the assistant is trained to perform and that the APRN instructs the assistant on the task as well as provides on-site supervision of the assistant performing the delegated task. The Board believes that regulations are essential to provide guidance and safety in the practice of delegation by APRNs to assistants.

For the reasons discussed above, the Board of Nursing respectfully submits this letter of support for SB 476.

I hope this information is useful. For more information, please contact Iman Farid, Health Policy Analyst, at (410) 585 – 1536 (iman.farid@maryland.gov) or Rhonda Scott, Deputy Director, at (410) 585 – 1953 (rhonda.scott2@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Hicks", written in a cursive style.

Gary N. Hicks
Board President

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.