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Budget and Taxation Committee

Health and Human Services
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Testimony for Senate Bill 476
Health Occupations - Nurses - Delegation of Tasks
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
February 16, 2021

Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present Senate Bill 476: Health Occupations - Nurses - Delegation of Tasks. Senate Bill 476 clarifies that an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) may delegate a nursing or other technical task to an assistant. This bill passed the House of Delegates last year unanimously but, unfortunately, the bill did not get a hearing in the Senate ahead of the early adjournment.

Current law and regulations do not specify that APRN's can delegate tasks to assistants, however registered nurses (RN's) and licensed practical nurses (LPN's) can delegate tasks provided it "does not become a routine part of the unlicensed individual's job duties." The lack of clarity in the law has caused inconsistencies in its application.

Senate Bill 476 allows APRN's to delegate nursing or technical tasks as part of regular job duties, if the assistant is trained in performing the task and the APRN provides instruction to and supervision of the assistant performing the task. The nurse must remain onsite and available should the need arise. The bill also requires the Board of Nursing to adopt regulations regarding the delegation of tasks.

Senate Bill 476 will increase access to care and ensure that we continue to meet the healthcare needs of Marylanders, especially important in light of the growing demand on healthcare professionals given the COVID-19 Pandemic. Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 476.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Addie C. Eckardt".

Senator Addie C. Eckardt