



ALLEGANY COLLEGE
of MARYLAND

January 31, 2021

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

Dear Chair Pendergrass:

I am writing to you today in support of **HB 0095, Health Occupations – Nurses – Delegation of Tasks**. As the program director of an accredited Medical Assistant program in Cumberland, Maryland and a certified Medical Assistant, I urge you to support **HB 0095, Health Occupations – Nurses – Delegation of Tasks**.

The Medical Assistant students and graduates of Allegany College of Maryland are impacted by the need to clarify language enabling Nurse Practitioners to delegate appropriate tasks to unlicensed Medical Assistants. Living in rural Western Maryland we depend on Nurse Practitioner practices to provide quality care to our underserved community. The services of Medical Assistants are particularly needed during this COVID 19 pandemic environment to provide an immediate source of vaccine administration and support ¹ to ALL healthcare providers including Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, etc. Safe and efficient provision of healthcare in the ambulatory setting is of utmost importance. Recently, our Medical Assistant students and graduates were approached to volunteer at a COVID 19 vaccination clinic but were unable to participate because a physician was not available to be on site for supervision. It was not the lack of training on the part of the Medical Assistants but the lack of availability for a physician to be on site. Nurse Practitioners were available but were not able to delegate the tasks to the Medical Assistants.

HB 0095, Health Occupations – Nurses – Delegation of Tasks clarifies the language to allow the hiring and delegation of tasks to unlicensed individuals. In short, **HB 0095, Health Occupations – Nurses – Delegation of Tasks** will:

- Clarify language in the Nurse Practice Act (NPA) to authorize Nurse Practitioners (NPs) to delegate appropriate technical tasks to Medical Assistants (MAs).
- Grant NPs, who are Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) equal authority to delegate appropriate technical to MAs as their Registered Nurse (RN) counterparts who delegate to similarly trained assistants in hospital/clinical settings.

- Authorize the NP to delegate and supervise the performance of certain technical tasks, such as the administration of vaccines, the measurement and recording of vital signs, drawing of blood samples, and so on, to an appropriately trained and qualified assistant, maximizing quality of care and cost-effectiveness.
- Result in decreased healthcare costs, improve efficiency in the office setting, and improve access to and quality of care, especially to patients in rural, medically underserved areas of Maryland where many NPs practice.

As a healthcare provider and program director, I am willing to answer any questions you might have related to this issue and will provide you with more information and research in support of **HB 0095, Health Occupations – Nurses – Delegation of Tasks**. Feel free to contact me with your questions.

Thank you for your support of **HB 0095, Health Occupations – Nurses – Delegation of Tasks** this legislative session.

Kindest Regards,



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