



“Advocating for NPs since 1992”

Bill: HB 95/SB 476- Health Occupations – Nurses – Delegation of Nursing Tasks

Position: SUPPORT

Committees: Senate Education, Health, and Environment Affairs & House Health & Government Operations

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dale Jafari, DNP, FNP-BC and I am actively employed as a Nurse Practitioner on the Eastern Shore of rural Maryland. I respectfully request your **support** for **HB 95/SB 476, Health Occupations – Nurses – Delegation of Nursing Tasks**, so that I, along with my colleagues, may more efficiently and effectively care for patients in the clinical setting. I work for an outpatient, ambulatory care office, which includes Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Nurse Midwives, Certified Nursing Assistants, and Medical Assistants at five different locations throughout the Mid-Shore. You can imagine the scheduling challenges we face with different provider types and needs in different locations on any given clinical day. This complexity is further exacerbated by the need to match the Certified Nursing Assistants with Nurse Practitioners whenever the Nurse Practitioners are in satellite offices without a Physician present. HB 95 and the ability to delegate will have a profound impact on the delivery of daily healthcare to populations, especially in medically underserved communities, and amidst the COVID -19 pandemic.

HB 95 would allow a registered nurse, a licensed practical nurse, and an advanced practice registered nurse to delegate a nursing task 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, and the unlicensed individual is provided training and supervision.

Improving the efficiency of the workforce will maximize the quality of care for patients in Maryland. This is especially important now given COVID-19, the surge in cases, and the shortage of healthcare providers including staff members who are in quarantine or ill with this contagious disease.

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All Nurse Practitioners in Maryland are licensed Registered Nurses. I have worked in inpatient as well as outpatient settings and I speak from experience when I say that the role of the Certified Nursing Assistant and the role of the Medical Assistant are very different in the two different settings. I cannot function without a staff member who can room my patients, measure vital signs, administer appropriate vaccinations under my direct supervision, chaperone and assist with gynecologic examinations and procedures, decontaminate each room, and reset it for the next patient. The increased availability of staff to serve those needs will increase the number of patients evaluated and treated for healthcare screenings, common acute conditions, and maintenance of long-term conditions within the restrictions set forth by COVID – 19.

This bill will enhance the ability of Nurse Practitioners to provide high quality, evidenced-based health care to more patients in Maryland and will be incredibly important as Maryland continues to care for patients with COVID-19.

For these reasons, I speak on behalf of the Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland to respectfully request a favorable vote on **HB 95/SB 476, Health Occupations – Nurses – Delegation of Nursing Tasks**.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at dalejafari@gmail.com or at 410 430-6386.

Sincerely,

S. Dale G. Jafari
Doctor of Nursing Practice, Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner, Board Certified
Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland

CC: J. William Pitcher, HB Strategies
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