



Board of Nursing

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

January 27, 2021

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

RE: HB 123 – Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2021 – Letter of Support

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Committee members:

The Maryland Board of Nursing (“the Board”) respectfully submits this letter of support for HB 123 – Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2021. This bill authorizes health care practitioners to provide care utilizing telehealth services through either synchronous or asynchronous interactions, audio-only conversations, or remote patient monitoring services.

The Board feels that this bill has substantial value at promoting access to care, particularly during this time of COVID, but also for the already underserved rural communities. By expanding telehealth capabilities to include audio-only services, health care practitioners have a wider reach to engage and treat individuals. The bill establishes the standard for practice of telehealth and proactively addresses patient safety concerns by requiring that a health care practitioner providing telehealth services be held to the same standards of practice that are applicable to inpatient settings.

This bill aligns with Maryland’s Nurse Licensure Compact which allows nurses the privilege to practice in other compact states through telehealth. Currently, these nurses which include nurse practitioners, can practice in a compact state and are required to practice according to the statutes and regulations governing nursing practice in that state.

For the reasons discussed above, the Board of Nursing respectfully submits this letter of support to HB 123.

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", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

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.