



Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill Number: Senate Bill 741

Title: COVID–19 Testing, Contact Tracing, and Vaccination Act of 2021

Hearing Date: March 30, 2021

Position: Support

The Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) supports *Senate Bill 741- COVID-19 Testing, Contract Tracing, and Vaccination Act*. The bill delineates requirements for a robust COVID-19 response.

In the midst of the pandemic, nurses were called upon and put years of education and training into action. This experiences has changed health care forever; and the past 12-months will help guide us in ongoing efforts to end the pandemic and plan for future public health emergencies. This legislation supports planning efforts by focusing on a three-pronged approaching to addressing the pandemic: testing, contact tracing and vaccinations.

We support the creation of the Maryland Public Health Job Corps. This provision will help infuse needed personnel into Maryland’s response. By utilizing trusted members of the community, such as community health workers, the Maryland Public Health Jobs Corps will advance community buy-in of COVID testing and vaccination efforts. *MNA appreciates that the Senate added a technical provision to clarify that only those individuals authorized under State or Federal law may administer COVID tests and vaccinations.*

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.