



**Committee:** House Health and Government Operations Committee

**Bill Number:** House Bill 1148 – Secretary of Health – School-Based Health Centers – Guidelines and Administration of Grants

**Hearing Date:** March 2, 2020

**Position:** Support

The Maryland Nurses Association strongly supports *House Bill 1148 – Secretary of Health – School-Based Health Centers – Guidelines and Administration of Grants*. The bill transfers the State’s school-based health center (SBHC) program from the Maryland State Department of Education to the Bureau of Maternal and Child Health under the Maryland Department of Health.

The Bureau of Maternal and Child Health is responsible for leading the State’s public health initiatives in improving health outcomes for children. Therefore, the Bureau is in the best position to integrate SBHCs into the State’s broader public health initiatives regarding children including:

- Improving vaccination rates. Even before the pandemic, there were gaps in vaccination rates leading to outbreaks of diseases such as measles;
- Prevention of chronic diseases such as diabetes and hypertension; and
- Improving management of chronic diseases such as asthma.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net) or (443) 926-3443.