

Maryland Association of Nurse Anesthetists

SB 513 – Health Occupations – Clinical Nurse Specialists – Prescribing Authority

Before Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

Position – Favorable

February 6, 2022

Chair Pinsky and members of the committee, it is my pleasure to submit the following legislation on behalf of the Maryland Association of Nurse Anesthetists in support of SB 513. SB 513 would allow Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS) to prescribe drugs and durable medical equipment to their patients. The scope of their prescriptive authority will be appropriately determined by The Maryland Board of Nursing (BON) through their regulatory authority.

SB 513 will allow CNS to provide care and treatment to the full level of their training and education. As you may know, CNS are advance practice nurses and are highly trained and educated. To become a CNS, the candidate must; 1) obtain a Bachelor of Science in nursing; 2) obtain a license as a registered nurse; 3) achieve a minimum of 500 supervised clinical hours in a specialty; 4) obtain a Master of Science in nursing or a Doctor of Nursing Practice; and finally, 5) obtain certification from the American Nurses Credentialing Center or the American Association of Critical-care Nurses.

CNS serve a vital role in ensuring access to care and serve in many practice areas including Pediatrics, Women's health Geriatrics, Psychiatric health Rehabilitation services, Wound care, Pain management, Oncology Critical care and Emergency room service. SB 513 would create efficiencies in care and would result not only in improved patient care, but reduced cost over the entire healthcare system.

I respectfully request a favorable report from the committee on SB 513.

Natasha Hopkins, CRNA DNP
President, MANA