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Budget and Taxation Committee

Health and Human Services  
Subcommittee

*Joint Committees*  
Administrative, Executive,  
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Audit

Children, Youth, and Families

Fair Practices and  
State Personnel Oversight

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**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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Testimony for Senate Bill 513  
Health Occupations – Clinical Nurse Specialists – Prescribing Authority  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
February 10, 2022

Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present **Senate Bill 513 – Health Occupations – Clinical Nurse Specialists – Prescribing Authority**.

Senate Bill 513 would expand the scope of practices for Clinical Nurse Specialists to include prescriptive authority and the ability to order durable medical equipment. The CNS would be designated as an “authorized prescriber”.

As the need for expanded practices increase among professional, the addition of prescriptive authority improves continuity of care and access to care as soon as it is necessary.

There is a need for more nurses in the field, especially during the ongoing labor shortage and pandemic. Senate Bill 513 would allow for necessary expansions in the authority of nurses. Existing budgeted resources would cover the cost of implementing this bill within the Board of Nursing.

An amendment has been submitted to clarify the role of Clinical Nurse Specialists when ordering diagnostic tests.

Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 513.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Addie C. Eckardt".

Senator Addie C. Eckardt