



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

**Bill:** House Bill 701 - Public Safety - Governor's Health Emergency Powers - Repeal

**Hearing Date:** March 1, 2022

**Position:** Oppose

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The Maryland Nurses Association strongly opposes *House Bill 701 – Public Safety – Governor’s Health Emergency Powers – Repeal*. The bill completely repeals the Governor’s authority to declare a public health emergency. As we have seen with the COVID-19 pandemic, many more Marylanders would have lost their lives if the Governor had not taken action under a declaration of a public health emergency. This bill poses a serious danger to Marylanders, as it would eliminate the ability of the Governor to enact safety measures to protect the public during a health emergency. Therefore we strongly oppose this bill, and ask for an unfavorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net).