



# Board of Nursing

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Secretary

March 29, 2022

The Honorable Luke Clippinger  
Chair, House Judiciary Committee  
Room 101, House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**RE: HB 1402 – Health Care Practitioners – Sexual Abuse – Reporting and Statute of Limitations – Letter of Support**

Dear Chair Clippinger and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Nursing (the Board) respectfully submits this letter of support for House Bill (HB) 1402 – Health Care Practitioners – Sexual Abuse – Reporting and Statute of Limitations. This bill alters the statute of limitations for prosecuting a certain sexual offense if the offense was committed by a health care practitioner; and requires health care practitioners who suspect or have reason to believe that a patient is being sexually abused to notify certain individuals in a certain manner and within a certain time frame.

The Board is in support of maintaining ethical standards for health care practitioners, including individuals licensed or certified under Title 8 of the Health Occupations Article. Nurses are bound by a code of ethics that states they may not engage in behavior that dishonors the profession or infringes on client-nurse boundaries, including any sexual advances, misconduct, or abuse<sup>1</sup>. Nurses are additionally responsible for reporting violations of their fellow colleagues to both their licensing/certifying authority and the appropriate individual(s) at their facility<sup>2</sup>. The Board believes unethical conduct in the healthcare field should be timely reported and investigated to maintain a safe and professional environment for patients and their family members.

For the reasons discussed above, the Board of Nursing respectfully submits this letter of support for HB 1402. I hope this information is useful. For more information, please contact Iman Farid, Health Policy Analyst, at (410) 585 – 1536 ([iman.farid@maryland.gov](mailto:iman.farid@maryland.gov)) or Rhonda Scott, Deputy Director, at (410) 585 – 1953 ([rhonda.scott2@maryland.gov](mailto:rhonda.scott2@maryland.gov)).

Sincerely,

Gary N. Hicks  
Board President

**The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.**

<sup>1</sup> Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 10.27.19.02. Subtitle 27 Board of Nursing.

<sup>2</sup>§8-505. Reporting Requirements for Licensed Nursing Professions.