



JAN H. GARDNER
Frederick County
Executive

SB 298

**Criminal Law – Threat Against
Public Official or Hospital Staff
Member**

County Position: FAVORABLE

Date: February 8, 2022
Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner urges your **SUPPORT** for Senate Bill 298 – Criminal Law – Threat Against Public Health Official or Hospital Member.

Our Health Officers and hospitals have mounted an exceptional response to the COVID-19 global pandemic. For more than two years now, Local Health Departments and the doctors, nurses and staff at hospitals across our state have provided front-line services which include testing and vaccinations. Hospital staff continue to care for patients with COVID-19 even as their emergency rooms, ICUs and bed capacity reach saturation points. In this challenging and difficult environment, they have delivered high quality and tireless service, even in the face of threats and hostility.

County Executive Gardner supports the provisions in the proposed legislation that:

- Creates penalties for threats made against state and local health department officials and employees, and hospital staff as they perform their duties;
- Protects and prioritizes the health and well-being of these caretakers and they fulfill their responsibilities in taking care of our residents; and
- Affirms the value of our state’s public and private health care workers, their role in protecting public health, and their efforts in meeting the challenges of a historic health crisis.

Frederick County Executive Gardner **SUPPORTS** a **FAVORABLE** report for Senate Bill 298.