



# Maryland Occupational Therapy Association

---

PO Box 36401, Towson, Maryland 21286 ♦ [motamembers.org](http://motamembers.org)

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>House Ways and Means Committee</b>
<b>Bill Number:</b>	<b>House Bill 1004 - Public Schools - Health Services - School Nurses</b>
<b>Hearing Date:</b>	<b>March 4, 2022</b>
<b>Position:</b>	<b>Support</b>

---

The Maryland Occupational Therapy Association supports *House Bill 1004 – Public Health Services – School Nurses*. The bill requires every public school to have a full-time nurse. Occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants work closely with school nurses to coordinate services for students with special needs, including those with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). School nurses are essential to students with IEPs being successful in school, yet they are often stretched to capacity because they are assigned to cover multiple schools. This situation has become much worse after two years of the COVID-19 pandemic. Students are returning to school with significantly more complex somatic and behavioral health issues related to the impact of the pandemic.

We ask for a favorable report on this bill. Maryland’s baseline in health care staffing should be a nurse in every school. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Scott Tiffin at [stiffin@policypartners.net](mailto:stiffin@policypartners.net).