



Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill Number: House Bill 636 – Public Information Act – Inspection of Email Addresses and Telephone Numbers

Hearing Date: March 28, 2023

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) strongly supports *House Bill 636 – Public Information Act – Inspection of Email Addresses and Telephone Numbers*. The bill would allow a health occupations board to deny public access to a personal email address under certain circumstances. MNA has supported similar measures to shield personal information to reduce the risk of workplace violence.

Addressing workplace violence is among MNA’s top priorities. We have heard from countless Maryland nurses about the impact of workplace violence on their professional and personal lives. Incidents of serious violence are 4 times more common in healthcare than in other industries (such as manufacturing, construction, or retail).ⁱ Health care workers in emergency department are at the highest risk, causing them to consider leaving nursing. About one-third of emergency nurses reported that they have considered leaving nursing because of workplace violence. According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, 21% of nurses reported physical abuse, and this number is low because of underreporting. Surveys show that 30-50% of events are never reported in writing.ⁱⁱ

We ask for a favorable report. This bill will support the privacy of nurses who are being threatened by workplace violence. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

ⁱ *OSHA 3826. Workplace Violence in Healthcare. Understanding the Challenge. (2015). <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3826.pdf>

ⁱⁱ Gacki-Smith, Jessica et al. Violence Against Nurses Working in US Emergency Departments. The Journal of Nursing Administration. July-August 2009, Volume 39 – Issue 7/8.

ⁱⁱ OSHA 3826. Workplace Violence in Healthcare. Understanding the Challenge. (2015). <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3826.pdf>