

February 9, 2023

**Late Written Testimony**

The Honorable Josephine A. Penna-Melnyk  
Chair of the House Health and Government Operations Committee.  
Room 241 House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

**Re: HB 611---State Board of Nursing---Sunset Extension, Licensure Exceptions, and Board Operation and Membership**

Dear Chair Penna-Melnyk and Committee Members:

This letter is respectfully submitted by the Maryland Association of Associate Degree Nursing Directors. (MAADND)

We have several concerns regarding this proposed legislation:

1. Specifically, allowing the Secretary of Health to have authority over the infrastructure operations.
2. Removing the registered nurse requirements for the Executive Director.
3. Hiring and paying for an external consultant to conduct an independent evaluation of the board.
4. Terminating members of the State Board of nursing with a seven-month time frame.

The term infrastructure operations are somewhat ambiguous. If the current board would be given the necessary resources; for example, increased funding and updated technology, they would be in a much better position to serve its constituents. The bill doesn't outline how the Secretary would address these funding challenges.

The MAADND members strongly support that the nursing profession should only be regulated by a nursing leader holding a minimum of a master's degree in nursing or the equivalent. According to the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) Boards of Nursing, 75% of the executive officers serving on the State Boards of Nursing hold and active RN nursing license.

Recently, there has been four studies concerning the issues of external oversight and lack of resources. (Evans, K. 2023, Senate Finance Briefing) These studies have listed these issues as obstacles in the smooth function of the Board's operating procedures. We're not sure that hiring another consultant would help to resolve the current issues.

Lastly, we are concerned about terminating the current members of the Board within a seven-month time frame. This quick turnaround could significantly disrupt investigations, hearings, and their other responsibilities. Most of the current serving members are seasoned and will not have adequate time to mentor the newly appointed members.

For the above reasons, the members of MAADND respectfully submit this letter outlining our concerns with HB 611.

Sincerely,

*Karen Hammond RN, MSN*

Karen Hammond MSN, RN, CCRN  
MAADND President.