January 26, 2024

The Honorable Senator Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: SB0441 – Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment Program - Nancy Grasmick Public School Professional Award - School Nurses - Letter of Support

Dear Chair Feldman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Nursing (the Board) respectfully submits this letter of support for Senate Bill (SB) 441 – Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment Program - Nancy Grasmick Public School Professional Award - School Nurses. This bill expands the Nancy Grasmick Public School Professional Award within the Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment Program to include school nurses who are licensed as registered nurses, provide health services in public schools, and are employed by a county school system or a local health department to provide health services through an agreement with a county board.

The Board believes in increasing incentives that support nurses and other healthcare workers, especially when it comes to different forms of financial assistance. This bill aims to include school nurses as recipients to educational loan repayment assistance, reducing the financial burden and costs of higher education. As a result, this bill will help to support the effort to recruit and retain nurses working in public schools. Retaining school nurses will also help to improve the nursing workforce shortage within the state.

I hope this information is useful. For more information, please contact Ms. Mitzi Fishman, Director of Legislative Affairs, at mitzi.fishman@maryland.gov or Ms. Rhonda Scott, Executive Director, at rhonda.scott2@maryland.gov, or call (410) 585 – 2049.

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.