



Board of Nursing

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

January 26, 2024

The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary
Chair, House Ways and Means Committee
Room 131
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 0522 – Public Schools - Student Telehealth Appointments - Policy and Access – Letter of Support

Dear Chair Atterbeary and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Nursing (the Board) respectfully submits this letter of support for House Bill (HB) 522 – Public Schools - Student Telehealth Appointments - Policy and Access. This bill requires each county board of education to establish a policy to accommodate students who need to participate in telehealth appointments during the school day; requires each public middle and high school to designate a space that meets certain requirements for student telehealth appointments; and requires the Department, on request, to provide technical assistance to a county board to establish the student telehealth policy.

The Board believes this legislation will promote the health and wellbeing of students by increasing their access to care. By improving the conditions for students to attend telehealth appointments during the school day, the bill would minimize absenteeism and would support continuous learning with minimal disruption. Further, by easing the burden of attending a telehealth appointment, the bill would help maintain continuity of patient care by reducing missed appointments.

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.