



# Board of Nursing

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

January 23rd, 2025

The Honorable Vanessa Atterbeary  
Chair, Ways and Means Committee  
Room 103  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: HB 0231 – Constitutional Amendment - Fee or Tax Rate Increases - Yea and Nay Vote of General Assembly Required (Taxpayer Disclosure and Protection Act)**

Dear Atterbeary and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Nursing (the Board) respectfully submits this letter of concern for HB0231 Constitutional Amendment - Fee or Tax Rate Increases - Yea and Nay Vote of General Assembly Required (Taxpayer Disclosure and Protection Act).

Like many of the other Occupational Boards, the Board of Nursing is independently responsible for the funding of its own operations through fee collection. Despite this limitation on our funding sources, the Board as it has not raised fees since 2007. This has created fiscal issues in recent years, as the Board has not had the means to keep up with the inflation and rising operational costs. In order to alleviate these fiscal issues, the Board is currently working on raising fees at the recommendations of evaluation reports conducted by Ernst & Young, and The Office Program Evaluation and Government Accountability. This has been a years-long process, during which Board staff has conducted thorough research and held numerous stake-holder meetings to ensure the Board is able to meet its commitments and responsibilities, without putting an undue burden on its constituents. We believe this bill would put much of the work the Board has already done in jeopardy, potentially leaving us in a nearly \$3.5 million deficit by the end of FY26 and open its operational procedures to undue political scrutiny, particularly given the independent nature of the Board's funding sources.

Beyond these immediate concerns, this constitutional amendment has the potential to affect Board expenditures, as increased uncertainty around revenues would make decision making around hiring and procurement more difficult. Finally, this bill will erode the flexibility that is needed to react in a timely manner to the prevailing economic conditions and specific operational needs of the agency in order to make periodic adjustments to fees within reasonable timeframes.

Thank you again for your time. For more information, please contact Ms. Mitzi Fishman, Director of Legislative Affairs, at 410-585-2049 or [mitzi.fishman@maryland.gov](mailto:mitzi.fishman@maryland.gov), or Ms. Rhonda Scott, Executive Director, at 410-585-1953 or [rhonda.scott2@maryland.gov](mailto:rhonda.scott2@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christine Lechliter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christine Lechliter  
Board President

**The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.**