



**Committee: Senate Finance**

**Bill Number: SB806**

**Date: March 3rd, 2026**

**Position: Favorable**

Dear Beidle, Vice-Chair Hayes, and members of the Senate Finance Committee,

The Maryland Nurses Association urges a **Favorable Report on SB806**. This legislation will add criminal background checks to all health occupations and residential child care program professionals. It will also require additional background checks for those positions every 6 years going forward.

This is an important step to ensure the safety of our members and the patients we serve. When hiring for positions that will be caring for children and patients, employers should have the full scope of information available about a person's criminal history. SB806 would not forbid employers from hiring applicants who have a criminal history, nor should it, but requiring employers to take the additional step of completing a background check is a prudent measure. If a person has been convicted of a violent crime against a child, that information needs to be known before they are considered for a childcare position, not after they have already been given the position.

Background checks are a routine process for all sorts of jobs from summer camp counselors to accountants. It is time to bring health occupations and residential childcare programs into the list of professions that must run a criminal background check before offering someone the position.

We urge a favorable report on SB806

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jamie DeMarco". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jamie DeMarco  
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