



**Committee: House Health Committee**

**Bill Number: HB 316 Confidentiality of Medical Records - Definition of Medical Record**

**Date: February 3rd, 2026**

**Position: Favorable**

Dear Chair Bagnall, Vice-Chair Cullison, and members of the Health Committee,

The Maryland Nurses Association urges a ***Favorable Report*** on **HB316**, Confidentiality of Medical Records. The laws and legal system in Maryland have not kept up with changes in intra-hospital communications. Today, nurses and other hospital staff regularly communicate over secure electronic platforms, such as Tigerconnect, to relay changes in a patient's condition, ask a question about a medication, or express concern with a current course of treatment. These communications are not recorded in a patient's chart. These electronic communications are missing from the medical record entirely when it is being reviewed by other hospitals or courts.

HB 316 establishes a simple and commonsense principle: if a communication informs patient care, it belongs in the medical record. This bill ensures that clinically relevant messages exchanged through HIPAA-compliant systems are captured, retained, and accessible as part of the patient's record.

This will help protect nurses who may have provided recommendations for a change in treatment, but that recommendation was not recorded anywhere or currently considered to be part of the medical record. Our members provide expert care for patients, and the more information about what decisions were made regarding treatment and why, the more the good work of our members will be visible in the medical record.

Respectfully,

Jamie DeMarco  
Registered Lobbyist,  
Maryland Nurses Association  
[jamie@demarcoadvocacy.com](mailto:jamie@demarcoadvocacy.com)  
<https://www.marylandrn.org/>