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Via Online Submission

Re: In Support of HB316

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of HB316. I am a Maryland lawyer who represents victims of medical negligence.

When a patient is injured in a hospital, the only way they, or their loved ones, can try to figure out what happened is to look at the medical records. Often, the most critical components of these records are the substance and precise timing of communications between healthcare providers.

Increasingly, these communications are sent via encrypted text messaging or instant messaging apps implemented by hospitals. Even though these communications contain important clinical information, they are not incorporated into the patient's medical record, leaving them hidden from patients and their families (as well as subsequent treating physicians). Thus, a patient may not know who was involved in their care or what a provider knew, or didn't know, when making critical care decisions.

For these reasons, it is imperative that Maryland clarify the definition of Medical Records to include provider to provider communications so that this information is retained. This will lead to more transparency and information for individuals and their loved ones about what occurred during their medical treatment.

Sincerely,

Nicholas C. Bonadio