



Board of Nursing

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D., Secretary

February 5, 2026

The Honorable J. Sandy Bartlett
Chair, Judiciary Committee
100 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB 450 – Criminal Procedure - Protection of Identity of Victim of Sexual Assault or Stalking

Dear Chair Bartlett and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Nursing (the Board) respectfully submits this letter of support with amendments for HB 450 Criminal Procedure - Protection of Identity of Victim of Sexual Assault or Stalking.

This bill prohibits a court or a party in a criminal or juvenile delinquency case from disclosing or allowing inspection of a certain court filing or record to a nonparty unless the court or the party redacts certain identifying information relating to a certain victim of sexual assault or victim of stalking that appears in the filing or record, subject to a certain exception, and requires a court to redact certain identifying information relating to a certain victim of sexual assault or victim of stalking from an existing filing or record on certain request.

The Board strongly supports efforts to protect the privacy and identity of victims of sexual assault and stalking, and HB 450 aims at expanding these protections. Safeguarding vulnerable victims is a critical public policy goal, and the Board recognizes the importance of minimizing further harm to these individuals.


However, as currently drafted, HB 450 would significantly limit the Board's access to identifying information regarding victims in cases involving licensees and certificate holders. Such restrictions would impede the Board's, as well as nearly two dozen other health occupations boards, ability to conduct thorough and timely investigations, including contacting potential witnesses and gathering necessary evidence. Without access to this information, the Board's capacity to effectively investigate and administratively prosecute licensees and registrants who may pose a risk to the public would be compromised.

The Board does not seek public disclosure of victim identities. Rather, it requires limited, confidential access to identifying information solely for official investigatory and enforcement purposes, consistent with its statutory obligations and existing confidentiality protections. To be sure, victim information is never re-disclosed, and all identifying information regarding the victim is carefully shielded if the matter results in a final public order.

For all of these reasons, the Board supports HB 450 and respectfully requests an amendment to exempt the Board from the bill's restrictions and to allow the Board to continue to access this vital information solely for its regulatory investigations and enforcement actions. Such an amendment would preserve critical victim protection while ensuring that the Board can continue to fulfill its public safety mission.

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, or Ms. Rhonda Scott, Executive Director, at 410-585-1953 or 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.