



Board of Nursing

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

March 31, 2026

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

RE: HB 294 – Criminal Procedure - Protection of Identity of Victim of Sexual Assault or Stalking - Letter of Support as Amended

Dear Chair Bartlett and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Nursing (the Board) respectfully submits this letter of support as amended for SB 294 Criminal Procedure - Protection of Identity of Victim of Sexual Assault or Stalking.

This bill prohibits, on notice that a case filing or record includes identifying information about a victim of sexual assault or stalking, the court or a party in a criminal or juvenile delinquency case from disclosing or allowing the inspection of electronic or paper filings or records to anyone other than the victim/victim's representative unless all identifying information is redacted. The Board strongly supports efforts to protect the privacy and identity of victims of sexual assault and stalking, and SB 294 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.

As originally drafted, SB 294 limited the Board's access to identifying information regarding victims in cases involving licensees and certificate holders, possibly impeding the Board's ability to conduct thorough and timely investigations, including contacting potential witnesses and gathering necessary evidence. The Senate has amended the bill to fix these issues to the Board's satisfaction, ensuring the Board has 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 SB 294 as amended.

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,



Christine Lechliter
Board President

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