



Maryland  
Hospital Association

March 3, 2020

To: The Honorable Shane Pendergrass, Chairman  
House Health & Government Operations Committee

From: Jennifer Witten, Vice President, Government Affairs  
Maryland Hospital Association

Re: Letter of Support-House Bill 936-Health Occupations-Nurses-Delegation of Nursing Tasks

Dear Chairman Pendergrass:

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) 61 member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on House Bill 936. Maryland's hospitals care for over 5 million residents each year, treating 2.3 million in emergency departments and delivering more than 67,000 babies. Their 108,000 employees are [caring for Maryland](#) around-the-clock every day.

Maryland's hospitals support House Bill 936, which clarifies current law that Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) are able to delegate certain nursing tasks to unlicensed individuals, certified nursing assistants, and medication technicians. Entrusting nursing tasks to other team members when appropriate is common in the health care field. The American Nurses Association and the National Council of State Boards of Nursing reference delegation as a critical competency for registered nurses, and one that must be taught and practiced in order to be proficient in delivering care.<sup>i,ii</sup> Since licensure as a registered nurse is a prerequisite for licensure as an APRN, these providers should also be eligible to delegate nursing tasks. Additionally, HB 936 promotes care delivery efficiency by including assistants with medical training as individuals who can have tasks delegated to them.

We ask the committee to consider amending page 2, lines 26 – 30, which is duplicative of current regulations. According to COMAR 10.27.11.03, the delegating nurse is required to “either instruct the unlicensed individual, certified nursing assistant, or medication technician in the delegated task or verify the unlicensed individual's, certified nursing assistant's or medication technician's competency to perform the nursing task.”<sup>iii</sup> In addition, the regulations require the delegating nurse to “supervise the performance of the delegated nursing task in accordance with 10.27.11.04.”<sup>iv</sup>

By 2030, many of the state's 24 jurisdictions are expected to have shortages in primary care, mental health, and addiction providers.<sup>v</sup> Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of our current workforce will maximize the quality of care provided to Marylanders.

For these reasons, we urge a *favorable report* on HB 936.

For more information, please contact:  
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<sup>i</sup> American Nurses Association. (2012). *ANA's Principles for Delegation by Registered Nurses to Unlicensed Assistive Personnel (UAP)*

<https://www.nursingworld.org/~4af4f2/globalassets/docs/ana/ethics/principlesofdelegation.pdf>

<sup>ii</sup> National Council of State Boards of Nursing. (April 29, 2019). *National Guidelines for Nursing Delegation*

[https://www.ncsbn.org/NGND-PosPaper\\_06.pdf](https://www.ncsbn.org/NGND-PosPaper_06.pdf)

<sup>iii</sup> COMAR 10.27.11.03 <http://www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/comarhtml/10/10.27.11.03.htm>

<sup>iv</sup> COMAR 10.27.11.04 <http://www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/comarhtml/10/10.27.11.04.htm>

<sup>v</sup> IHS Markit. (n.d). *Maryland Primary Care and Selected Specialty Health Workforce Study*