



April 13, 2020

The Honorable James Welch, Chair
Joint Committee on Financial Services
State House
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable James Murphy, Chair
Joint Committee on Financial Services
State House
Boston, MA 02133

RE: SUPPORT. S. 2630, AN ACT TO PROVIDE LIABILITY PROTECTIONS FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS AND FACILITIES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Dear Chairman Welch and Chairman Murphy:

The Massachusetts Nurses Association writes in strong support of S. 2630, An Act to provide liability protections for health care workers and facilities during the COVID-19 Pandemic, filed by Governor Baker. We ask for the swift passage of this important measure.

This bill provides important liability protection for health care workers during this crisis. Similar legislation was passed into law in New York during the coronavirus (COVID-19) crises last week.

We are in the midst of a severe pandemic. Our healthcare system and our healthcare personnel are being tested like never before. Due to this, common and long-standing care protocols cannot be met due to the pressure on the care system.

In some cases, we are dealing with limited supplies and this could become more acute in the foreseeable future. There may not be enough ventilators and other life-saving devices for every patient as demonstrated by Crisis Standards of Care advisory released last week by Governor Baker. Registered nurses and other health care providers are being placed into care units and floors to which they are unfamiliar and utilizing new procedures in an attempt to give COVID-19 patients every opportunity to survive. The front-lines of our health care system are stretched to the limit - - this bill protects those on the front-line from liability under the duress of these difficult conditions, while recognizing gross negligence will not be tolerated or accepted.

Massachusetts is on the edge of the COVID-19 surge. We respectfully ask for timely passage of this legislation to ensure our care-givers have some piece of mind that in the midst of this care crisis they can do everything possible without fear of retribution.

Sincerely,

Donna Kelly-Williams, RN

Donna Kelly-Williams, RN
President

Cc: Members, Joint Committee on Financial Services