



*Keeping You Connected...Expanding Your Potential...
In Senior Care and Services*

TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk

FROM: Danna L. Kauffman
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
Richard A. Tabuteau
410-244-7000

DATE: March 12, 2020

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 1571 – *Hospitals – Changes in Status – Hospital Employee Retraining and Placement*

On behalf of the LifeSpan Network, the largest and most diverse senior care provider association in Maryland representing nursing facilities, assisted living providers, continuing care retirement communities, medical adult day care centers, senior housing communities and other home and community based services, we **support** House Bill 1571.

Workforce development is a top priority for our members. Maryland is facing a workforce crisis. Maryland's 60+ population is anticipated to increase from 1.2 million to 1.7 million by 2030, a 40% increase. This demographic shift impacts Maryland's post-acute care settings in two ways. First, the increasing senior population increases the need for services, which then increases the need for direct care workers. According to the Maryland Regional Direct Services Collaboration, Maryland will need approximately 40% more direct care workers to meet this increased need for care. Second, the increasing senior population will have a negative effect on the availability of direct care workers given that the primary labor pool for direct care workers are women aged 25-64, whose demographic is growing at less than one percent.

LifeSpan, through its' education affiliate The Beacon Institute, has introduced several programs to bolster the direct care workforce. For example, LifeSpan has partnered with Morgan-Keller Construction, Inc and other organizations to award over \$100,000 in scholarships to qualified senior caregivers in the past decade to further their education in senior care. However, this is only a small fraction of what is needed to grow and sustain a quality workforce to meet the rapidly growing needs of Maryland's aging population.

House Bill 1571 will provide another mechanism to train hospital employees to work in other settings, such as post-acute care settings. LifeSpan urges a favorable vote.