



HOUSE HEALTH & GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

TESTIMONY

Submitted by Dr. Brad Phillips, Executive Director

February 10, 2022

HB 625 – Commission to Study the Health Care Workforce Crisis in Maryland – Establishment

POSITION: Favorable with Amendment

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges, representing Maryland’s 16 public two-year institutions of postsecondary education supports this legislation and thanks Delegate Kelly for her sponsorship and for consideration of an amendment that would include a representative of Maryland’s 16 community colleges on the Commission the bill establishes.

Maryland’s community colleges are the state’s largest providers of training for numerous health care professions including nurses (LPN, ADN and CNA), paramedics, emergency management personnel, respiratory therapy and radiologists. Community colleges have a long history of working with Maryland healthcare professions to provide the training for the skills needed to successfully support these professions. Our community colleges' training and skills enhancing programs increase the proficiency and productivity of the healthcare workforce. Community college program courses provide training for laboratory technicians, medical coding, medical transcription, and numerous other short term specialized training that serve a specific population, such as generic nursing, clinical medical assistants and mental health aids.

We are pleased to share the experience of our institutions in expanding and enhancing health care programs to better serve the needs of Maryland.

To effectively represent all 16 of Maryland’s community colleges on the Commission, we ask the amendment read as follows:

(b) The Commission consists of the following members:

ADD NEW NUMBER: **“THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES, OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S DESIGNEE.”**