



The Arc Maryland
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**HB0407: Health Occupations – Health Care Staffing Shortage Emergency – Declaration
and Licensing and Practice Requirements (Health Care Heroes Act of 2022)
Health and Governmental Operations Committee
February 10, 2022**

Position: Letter of Information

The Arc Maryland is the largest statewide advocacy organization dedicated to protecting and advancing the rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and furthering inclusion of people with IDD in all aspects of daily life.

We support HB 407 which would authorize the Secretary of Health to declare a health care staffing shortage emergency in the State, and require each health occupations board to establish processes for the issuance of initial licenses, temporary licenses, and temporary practice letters on an expedited basis during a health care staffing shortage emergency.

Developmental Disabilities providers, such as the organizations operated by chapters of The Arc in Maryland, provide home and community based services and supports to thousands of individuals with IDD. The workforce of The Arc organizations are responsible for providing care and support to Marylanders with disabilities and many are required to complete the Maryland Board of Nursing (BON) Certified Medication Technician training course, and must obtain certification from the BON prior to administering medications and treatments to people in their care.

IDD providers have experienced an unprecedented workforce shortage since the start of the pandemic. Currently, the vacancy rate for The Arc organizations is close to 30% with roughly 1 in 3 caregiver positions vacant. To add insult to this injury, the processing of new and renewal Medication Technician applications by the Board of Nursing has been significantly delayed, impacting our ability to deploy Medication Technicians to care locations where they are needed.

We hope this information is taken under consideration as we try to move forward as a state. It would be helpful for license and certificate processing to be expedited for those who provide services and supports to people with IDD as well as the other Health Care Heroes named in the bill. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information, please contact:
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