



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

March 7, 2023

Senate Bill 774: Maryland Pathway to Nursing Program and Advisory
Committee – Establishment
Written Only Testimony

POSITION: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT

On behalf of the members of the Health Facilities Association of Maryland (HFAM), we appreciate the opportunity to express our support with amendment for Senate Bill 774. HFAM represents skilled nursing centers and assisted living communities in Maryland, as well as associate businesses that offer products and services to healthcare providers. Our members provide services and employ individuals in nearly every jurisdiction of the state.

Senate Bill 774 establishes the Maryland Pathway to Nursing Program in the Maryland Department of Health; requires the Secretary of Health to establish a certain pilot program before implementing the Program statewide; requires the Secretary to report annually to the Governor and the General Assembly on the implementation of the Program; and establishes the Maryland Pathway to Nursing Advisory Committee to assist the Secretary in the development and implementation of the Program.

We respectfully request that SB 774 be amended to add the Health Facilities Association of Maryland (HFAM) and LeadingAge Maryland to the Advisory Committee. We believe that the expertise of leaders from each organization will add value and insight to the Committee. Both organizations, in addition to the organizations already listed in the legislation, represent a diverse membership that should be included when discussing issues related to the nursing workforce.

Healthcare today, especially nursing, faces the greatest shortage and the most tremendous opportunity in workforce development in a generation. To meet this opportunity and succeed, we must deploy new tools and create innovative public-private partnerships.

Workforce recruitment and retention challenges have only grown worse over the last several years. This legislation is important to ensure that we continue to find solutions to staffing challenges and remove barriers to entry for those pursuing a career in nursing in order to produce more licensed professionals across the continuum. Together we have a tremendous opportunity to place resources that support nurses and alleviate the shortage of nursing professionals.

For these reasons, and with the proposed amendment, we request a favorable report from the Committee on Senate Bill 774.

Submitted by:
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