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March 6, 2023

Maryland General Assembly
Members of the Finance Committee
Annapolis, MD

RE: SB 774 – Maryland Pathway to Nursing Program and Advisory Committee - Establishment

Dear Senators,

We oppose SB 774 and respectfully request that you vote against it.

Why does another program need to be created – this one to encourage people to become nurses?

Can't existing educational institutions partner with local hospitals and medical professionals to promote their nursing degrees to increase attendance and supply qualified nurses?

We don't see this topic as one that the State should be addressing and do not want our tax dollars to fund it.

The bigger question is why is there a nursing shortage? Could it be that many qualified nurses were forced out of their jobs due to the Covid-19 vaccine mandate? And now the hospitals are feeling the pinch due to the government's and their own regulations? If mandates are still in place to administer vaccinations that are unwanted by the general public, then maybe the policies that created the shortage of nurses needs to be addressed and reversed.

Creating a State program to fix the problem is perhaps not addressing the underlying cause of the problem.

Sincerely,

Christine Hunt and Jay Crouthers