



Statement of Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA)

To the House Health and Government Operations Committee

Chair: Delegate Joseline Pena-Melnyk

March 8, 2023

House Bill 1160: Maryland Pathway to Nursing Program and Advisory Committee – Establishment

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison and members of the Committee, the Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA) is in SUPPORT of House Bill 1160, Maryland Pathway to Nursing Program and Advisory Committee – Establishment.

MRHA believes that the current nursing shortage in Maryland is putting the health and safety of Marylanders at risk. According to the 2022 Maryland Health Care Workforce Report published by the Maryland Hospital Association’s Task Force on Maryland’s Future Health Workforce, the current number of RNs can only meet 91% of the demand for services. This is projected to shrink to only 80% of demand by 2035.¹ Workforce shortages lead to burnout and dissatisfaction among employees, and it can lead to errors being made by professionals which can lead to higher rates of morbidity and mortality for patients.²

Through supporting House Bill 1160, you will be creating an easy pathway to nursing to increase the number of qualified and caring staff. This will lead to better patient outcomes, and a healthier Maryland.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Dayton, MS, NREMT, CNE, Executive Director

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¹ Maryland Hospital Association. (2022). (rep.). 2022 STATE OF MARYLAND’S HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE REPORT . Retrieved February 6, 2023, from <https://www.mhaonline.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/2022-state-of-maryland-s-health-care-workforce-report.pdf>.

² Haddad LM, Annamaraju P, Toney-Butler TJ. Nursing Shortage. [Updated 2022 Feb 22]. In: StatPearls [Internet]. Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing; 2022 Jan-.