

Senate Finance Committee
February 20, 2024

**SB 718 - Maryland Pathway to Nursing Pilot Program and Advisory Committee -
Establishment**

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges strongly supports **SB 718**, which seeks to address a piece of the critical healthcare workforce shortage in the state of Maryland. This legislation would establish the Maryland Pathway to Nursing Pilot Program in the Maryland Department of Health to provide support to nursing students, with community colleges hosting the pilot program in at least two geographically diverse areas in the state.

Maryland's community colleges stand ready to support the state's strategic goals in addressing the workforce shortage and appreciate our inclusion in the pilot program and as advisors to the Maryland Pathway to Nursing Advisory Committee.

Community colleges provide access to health care education for underrepresented populations and see it as part of our mission. This legislation would provide financial assistance for students pursuing these admirable career pathways, including wrap around services. These provisions would assist community colleges in providing these opportunities to more students and promote a workforce that better reflects the population it serves. Accordingly, MACC urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** vote on **SB 718**.

Please contact Brad Phillips (bphillips@mdacc.org) or Drew Jabin (djabin@mdacc.org) with questions.