



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
SENATE EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

March 1, 2024

Senate Bill 1072: Occupational and Professional Licensing - Military Training and Military Spouses
Written Testimony Only

POSITION: FAVORABLE

On behalf of the members of the Health Facilities Association of Maryland (HFAM), we appreciate the opportunity to express our support for Senate Bill 1072.

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. HFAM is affiliated with the American Health Care Association/National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL), which is the largest association in the United States representing long-term and post-acute care providers.

Senate Bill 1072 requires an occupational licensing board to issue a license, certificate, permit, or registration to an applicant who is military trained or who is a military spouse if the applicant meets certain requirements; requires an occupational licensing board to consider certain types of experience for a certain calculation; and authorizes an occupational licensing board to issue a temporary license, certificate, permit, or registration under certain circumstances.

HFAM has a long commitment to advocating for and supporting public policies that recognize the value that service members, veterans, and military spouses bring to the civilian workforce and Senate Bill 1072 could not come at a more critical time.

In Maryland and throughout the country, we are facing a shortage of healthcare workers across settings, with particularly fewer people working in skilled nursing and rehabilitation centers. Workforce recruitment and retention was a challenge before the pandemic and it has only grown more challenging. Tens of thousands of healthcare workers in Maryland have left the field over the last few years. Licensed healthcare professionals are scarce and all healthcare settings are competing for employees from the same labor pool. Veterans and their partners have the potential to be a tremendous resource in the healthcare workforce crisis we currently face.

For these reasons, we request a favorable report from the Committee on Senate Bill 1072.

Submitted by:

Joseph DeMattos, Jr.
President and CEO
(410) 290-5132