

House Health and Government Operations Committee HB 354: Maryland Pathway to Nursing Program and Advisory Committee -Establishment February 6, 2024 Position: Support

The Arc Maryland is the largest statewide membership organization that is dedicated to protecting and advancing the rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and supporting their families. The Arc Maryland supports HB354 which would establish the Maryland Pathway to Nursing Program in the Maryland Department of Health; requiring the Secretary to establish a pilot program at community colleges in at least two geographically diverse areas in the State that offer licensed practical nursing programs before implementing the Program statewide.

The nursing shortage does not just impact our hospitals and nursing homes, but also Home and Community Based Services that help thousands of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live in their communities they choose with the supports they need.

We believe HB 354 will encourage growth in the nursing field and take us a step closer to resolving our healthcare workforce crisis in the state.

For more information, please contact: Ande Kolp, Executive Director, The Arc Maryland <u>akolp@thearcmd.org</u>