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HB1105

March 5, 2024

**TO:** Members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee

**FROM:** Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

**RE:** House Bill 1105 – Advanced Practice Registered Nurses - Certification Requirement and Exceptions

**POSITION: FAVORABLE**

Chair Peña-Melnyk, Vice Chair Beidle, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 1105.

HB 1105 requires that an individual be certified and licensed by the Board of Nursing as an advanced practice registered nurse or licensed practical nurse before practicing nursing in the State. Certification and licensure for nursing creates “an environment of professionalism...and provides validation of experience, knowledge and skills.”<sup>i</sup>

Study results showed that hospitals with a higher percentage of certified nurses had lower 30-day death rates and failure to rescue rates for surgical patients compared to hospitals with lower nursing certification rates.<sup>ii</sup> Nurses with certifications have also reported higher job satisfaction rates compared to non-certified nurses.<sup>iii</sup> Certification and licensing can contribute to sense of empowerment for nurses and lead to workforce retention. According to the Maryland Hospital Association, nearly one in four hospital nursing positions in the state are vacant, with Central Maryland (which includes Baltimore) having the highest vacancy rate at nearly 30%.<sup>iv</sup> Support of certification and licensing nursing programs will solidify investments into nursing education, which can lead to high job satisfaction for this workforce and help alleviate job turnover.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on HB 1105.

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<sup>i</sup> American Association of Critical Care Nurses. (n.d.). Certification Benefits Patients, Employers and Nurses. Retrieved from <https://www.aacn.org/certification/value-of-certification-resource-center/nurse-certification-benefits-patients-employers-and-nurses#:~:text=1%20RN%20licensure%20measures%20entry-level%20competence.%20Certification%20validates,make%20decisions%20with%20greater%20confidence.%20...%20More%20items>

<sup>ii</sup> Kendall-Gallagher, D., Aiken, L. H., Sloane, D. M., & Cimiotti, J. P. (2011). Nurse specialty certification, inpatient mortality, and failure to rescue. *Journal of nursing scholarship : an official publication of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing*, 43(2), 188–194. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1547-5069.2011.01391.x>

<sup>iii</sup> Wei, H., Horsley, L., Cao, Y., Haddad, L., Hall, K., Robinson, R., Powers, M., & Gay Anderson, D. (2023). The associations among nurse work engagement, job satisfaction, quality of care, and intent to leave: A national survey in the United States. *International Journal of Nursing Sciences*, 10(4), 476-484. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijnss.2023.09.010>.

<sup>iv</sup> Maryland Hospital Association. (2022). 2022 State of Maryland's Health Care Workforce Report. Retrieved from <https://www.mhaonline.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/2022-state-of-maryland-s-health-care-workforce-report.pdf>