

SB0718_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
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TESTIMONY ON SB#0718 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

Maryland Pathway to Nursing Pilot Program and Advisory Committee – Establishment

TO: Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and members of the Finance Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#0718, Maryland Pathway to Nursing Pilot Program and Advisory Committee – Establishment

I am proud to support this bill as part of Governor Moore’s emphasis on service. “Currently, Maryland is facing a critical shortage of nurses in our health care system. The 2022 State of Maryland’s Health Care Workforce Report stated “1 in every 4 hospital nursing positions is vacant”, “- 13,800 additional RNs needed by 2035 - 9,200 additional LPNs needed by 2035” and “62% of surveyed Maryland Board of Nursing licensees and certificate holders thought about leaving nursing recently”.¹

This bill is a tool Maryland can and should implement to help alleviate this shortage by creating pilot programs to study how to find solutions and collect data the Governor and General Assembly can use to guide future decisions. It can be the first step in fixing a defined problem.

The importance of finding the numbers of nurses we need now and, in the future, will help us solve some of the challenges around quality health care in Maryland.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0718.

¹ <https://www.mhaonline.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/2022-state-of-maryland-s-health-care-workforce-report.pdf>