



Hospice & Palliative Care Network  
OF MARYLAND



TO: The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair  
Members, Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
The Honorable Adelaide C. Eckardt

FROM: Danna L. Kauffman  
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer

DATE: January 26, 2021

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 13 – *Certified Nursing Assistants – Certificate Renewal – Training Program Requirements*

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On behalf of the LifeSpan Network, the Maryland Association of Adult Day Services, the Hospice & Palliative Care Network of Maryland, and the Maryland-National Capital Homecare Association, we strongly **support** Senate Bill 13. Senate Bill 13 is a workforce development bill that provides an alternative avenue for an individual who may wish to renew their nursing assistant certificate but does not meet the 16-hour requirement for renewal. Rather than require the individual to retake the full course, which may be both time and cost-prohibitive, Senate Bill 13 authorizes the Maryland Board of Nursing to develop a refresher course.

Prior to the declaration of the catastrophic health emergency brought on by COVID-19, Maryland was facing a workforce crisis due to several factors. Maryland's 60+ population is anticipated to increase from 1.2 million to 1.7 million by 2030, a 40% increase. This demographic shift impacts Maryland's post-acute care settings in two ways. First, the increasing senior population increases the need for services, which then increases the need for direct care workers, including certified nursing assistants. According to the Maryland Regional Direct Services Collaboration, Maryland will need approximately 40% more direct care workers to meet this increased need for care. Second, the increasing senior population will have a negative effect on the availability of direct care workers given that the primary labor pool for direct care workers are women aged 25-64, whose demographic is growing at less than one percent. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated these issues and demonstrates the need for Maryland to commit to developing a robust direct care workforce.

Maryland must take steps to incentivize individuals to enter the direct care workforce, which includes certified nursing assistants, by creating new pathways to entry. Senate Bill 13 accomplishes this task while ensuring appropriate safeguards through the Board of Nursing. We urge a favorable vote.

**For more information call:**

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