



Board of Nursing

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Acting Secretary

January 26, 2021

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: SB0013 – Certified Nursing Assistants – Certificate Renewal – Training Program Requirements – Letter of Support

Dear Chair Pinsky and Committee members:

The Maryland Board of Nursing (“the Board”) respectfully submits this letter of support for Senate Bill 13 (SB0013) – Certified Nursing Assistants – Certificate Renewal – Training Program Requirements. This bill permits a certified nursing assistant (CNA) to provide evidence of completion of a nursing assistant training program or a refresher training program to renew their certificate.

There has been a great need for creating CNA refresher courses in the state of Maryland. The Board has worked with the community and has received overwhelming support from stakeholders, CNA training programs, and legislators in spearheading efforts in adopting refresher courses as a condition of renewal for both CNAs and geriatric nursing assistants (GNAs). Many benefits can be gained from instituting refresher programs, particularly for individuals interested in returning to the workforce. Refresher programs will allow a pool of CNAs/GNAs who have been expired, non-renewed, or on extended medical leave to enter the workforce in a shorter amount of time.

Current CNA programs may take from 4 – 6 weeks to complete, and can be a financial burden on students. With the introduction of refresher programs, the time of instruction will be limited to no more than a week. The shortage of direct care workers has been made abundantly clear not only during the time of COVID-19, but the many years preceding it. The Board believes that refresher programs will reduce barriers to entry into the workforce, and will help in mobilizing and retaining direct care workers.

Lastly, the State of Maryland will finally be aligned with bordering states, such as Virginia and West Virginia, who currently offer refresher courses.

For the reasons discussed above, the Board of Nursing respectfully submits this letter of support to SB0013.

I hope this information is useful. For more information, please contact Iman Farid, Health Policy Analyst, at (410) 585 – 1536 (iman.farid@maryland.gov) or Rhonda Scott, Deputy Director, at (410) 585 – 1953 (rhonda.scott2@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Hicks", written in a cursive style.

Gary N. Hicks
Board President

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.