

## **2 - SB0013 – Certified Nursing Assistants – Certif**

Uploaded by: Bennardi, Maryland Department of Health /Office of Governmen

Position: FAV



# 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](mailto:iman.farid@maryland.gov)) or Rhonda Scott, Deputy Director, at (410) 585 – 1953 ([rhonda.scott2@maryland.gov](mailto:rhonda.scott2@maryland.gov)).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Hicks", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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.***

**SB13\_FAV\_AlzheimersAssociationMD.pdf**

Uploaded by: Colchamiro, Eric

Position: FAV

Testimony of the Alzheimer's Association Greater Maryland and National Capital Area Chapters  
**SB 13 – Certified Nursing Assistants – Certificate Renewal – Training Program Requirements**  
**POSITION: FAVORABLE**

Chair Pinsky and Vice Chair Kagan,

My name is Eric Colchamiro, and I am the Director of Government Relations for the Alzheimer's Association in Maryland. I am here today to issue my strong support for SB 13.

Our organization applauds Senator Eckardt for her ongoing focus on the healthcare workforce; we are, along with Senator Eckardt, active members of the Oversight Committee for the Quality of Care in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities. [In the Oversight Committee's 2020 annual report](#), Senator Eckardt's insights were instrumental in that Committee's recommendation that, "there is a broader opportunity for the Maryland Board of Nursing to work with the long-term care industry on measures such as expedited credentialing of entry-level staff for safe practice, to allow a greater number of individuals to receive CNA and GNA training."

There is a shortage of nurses in Maryland; a [2018 University of Maryland Working Group on this issue noted](#) that Maryland is one of four states that will experience a shortage of 10,000 or more registered nurses (RNs) by 2025.

For Alzheimer's and dementia patients, who often live in nursing homes and assisted living facilities, getting more and qualified nurses has been especially critical during the COVID-19 pandemic – where this essential direct care staff can be sidelined by coming into contact with someone with COVID. Our organization has, and will continue to applaud Governor Hogan, for his steps to address staffing during this crisis – including deploying 'bridge teams' of nurses and health aides, to further address the staffing shortages.

Yet the COVID crisis has heightened a recruitment, retention and training problem that existed long before this pandemic. Staff work in multiple long-term care facilities, often due to low pay, and because facilities need the help. And facilities—including memory care units, which treat the most vulnerable patients with Alzheimer's and dementia—need to have adequate staff, in terms of what is required and what is available to them, so that Marylanders can get better care.

We need to implement cost-effective strategies, as SB 13 suggests, to sustain both the quantity and quality of this workforce. We applaud this legislation, and urge a favorable report.

**SB0013\_CC\_Fav\_Coppersmith.pdf**

Uploaded by: Coppersmith, Clifford

Position: FAV



## **SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

**January 26, 2021**

### **TESTIMONY**

**Submitted by  
Dr. Clifford Coppersmith, President**

#### **SB 13 – Certified Nursing Assistants – Certificate Renewal – Training Program Requirements Position: Favorable**

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As the President of Chesapeake College I strongly support passage of Senate Bill 13 (Sponsored by Senator Addie Eckardt) to address the ongoing crisis in providing for Certified Nursing Assistant re-certification. Many CNAs with expired certifications are impeded and discouraged by the cost and time commitment required to renew their certification and do not return to the direct care workforce as a result. As currently written, if a CNA's certification expires they must complete a whole course of original training over a period of months to attain a credential to return to work. My colleagues, including Dr. Ray Hoy (Wor-Wic) and Dr. Mary Bolt (Cecil), also support this bill.

Senate Bill 13 provides a mechanism for CNAs to re-certify through shorter term refresher training that provides a worker friendly alternative and still provides for the essential training needed to assure quality health care for patients in hospital and other care settings, including home health care.

As a provider for this type of work-ready training, Chesapeake College along with other institutions in the Maryland community college system will be prepared to provide this refresher training if this Bill is made into law. Even before COVID-19 CNAs were in short supply. Now more than ever we must assure that these frontline caregivers are permitted the opportunity to return to the workforce.

Approving these training requirements will streamline the certification process and allow more former CNAs to regain their certification. Thus, providing the care provider with added tools to improve the possibility for higher pay. This bill can be a win-win for the in-home care industry as well as the whole medical industry. The ever-growing aging community is in desperate need of skilled care providers with their desire to stay in their home longer. Providing these adjusted training requirements will ensure the need is met in a timelier fashion. Our higher learning institutions have limited resources for providing the initial CNA training. This amended training requirement will ensure quicker turnaround to the workforce, which is now desperately needed.

On behalf of students, current certified nursing assistants (and those to be) and my fellow presidents in the Maryland community college system, I urge passage of Senate Bill 13.

# **HFAM Testimony SB 13 Final.pdf**

Uploaded by: DeMattos, Joseph

Position: FAV





**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE  
SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

January 26, 2021

Senate Bill 13: Certified Nursing Assistants – Certificate Renewal – Training Program Requirements  
*Written Testimony Only*

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

On behalf of the members of the Health Facilities Association of Maryland (HFAM), we appreciate the opportunity to express our support for Senate Bill 13. HFAM represents over 170 skilled nursing centers and assisted living communities in Maryland, as well as nearly 80 associate businesses that offer products and services to healthcare providers. Our members provide services and employ individuals in nearly every jurisdiction in the state and provide the majority of long-term and post-acute care to Marylanders in need.

Senate Bill 13 would allow a nursing assistant to complete a nursing assistant refresher training program approved by the Maryland Board of Nursing that would be an equal alternative to the current requirements for certificate renewal. Currently, a certified nursing assistant (CNA) may renew their certificate if they complete 16 hours of active nursing assistant practice within the 2-year period immediately preceding the date of renewal or an approved nursing assistant training program.

Under this legislation, the Maryland Board of Nursing shall adopt regulations to specify circumstances under which a nursing assistant is required to complete either an approved training program or an approved refresher program, as well as the number of hours of training either program must have to be approved.

Workforce development and training of nursing assistants has always been critical to long-term care and other healthcare settings. Now, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is even more critical to ensure nursing assistants are adequately and efficiently trained to care for Marylanders in need.

For years, in Maryland and across the nation, healthcare settings have faced staffing shortages, particularly among nursing assistants. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these workforce challenges. Senate Bill 13 provides qualified nursing assistants with an opportunity to expediate their certification renewal, while retaining essential competencies, so that they can get in to the workforce more quickly.

**For these reasons we request a favorable report from the Committee on Senate Bill 13.**

*Submitted by:*

Joseph DeMattos, Jr.  
President and CEO  
(410) 290-5132

# **SB13 Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Eckardt, Adelaide

Position: FAV

**ADDIE C. ECKARDT**  
*Legislative District 37*  
Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot  
and Wicomico Counties



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Budget and Taxation Committee

Health and Human Services  
Subcommittee

*Joint Committees*  
Administrative, Executive,  
and Legislative Review

Audit

Children, Youth, and Families

Fair Practices and  
State Personnel Oversight

Pensions

**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

*District Office*  
601 Locust Street, Suite 202  
Cambridge, MD 21613  
410-221-6561

Testimony for Senate Bill 13  
Certified Nursing Assistants – Certificate Renewal – Training Program Requirements  
January 26, 2021

Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present Senate Bill 13: Certified Nursing Assistants – Certificate Renewal – Training Program Requirements, which alters the requirements for nursing assistants to renew their certificates.

Currently, certified nursing assistants (CNAs) and geriatric nursing assistants (GNAs) can renew their certifications if they have completed 16 hours of active nursing assistant practice within the 2-year period immediately preceding the date of renewal *OR* an approved nursing assistant training program. This requirement leads to long delays for nursing assistants who have let their certificates lapse in the past and have not practiced within two years, as they are required to complete a 100 hour program, consisting 60 hours didactic training and 40 hours of clinical training.

Senate Bill 13 allows the Board of Nursing to create approved “refresher” courses for those nursing assistants, who have been certified in the past, but who may have let their certificates expire for over 2 years. The “refresher” courses will expedite the process of returning them to the healthcare workforce. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, this issue has become significant as we struggle to meet the healthcare demand and replenish our exhausted workforces.

Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 13.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Addie C. Eckardt".

Senator Addie C. Eckardt

**2021 MNA SB 13 Senate Side.pdf**

Uploaded by: Elliott, Robyn

Position: FAV



**Committee:** Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs  
**Bill number:** Senate Bill 13  
**Title:** Certified Nursing Assistants – Certification Renewal – Training Program Requirements  
**Hearing Date:** January 26, 2021  
**Position:** Support

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The Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) supports *Senate Bill 92 – Certified Nursing Assistants – Certification Renewal – Training Program Requirements*. The bill will create a more efficient pathway for certified nursing assistants (CNAs) to reenter the workforce if they do not have active clinical hours. The CNAs would have to meet Board of Nursing requirements and complete a refresher course. This bill will help address workforce shortages, as it will be simpler for qualified CNAs to obtain certification again. MNA thanks the sponsor and the Maryland Board of Nursing for their leadership in proactively addressing workforce shortage issues.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide further assistance, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net) or (443) 926-3443.

# **LeadingAge Maryland - 2021 - SB 13 - nurse assista**

Uploaded by: Greenfield, Aaron

Position: FAV



6811 Campfield Road  
Baltimore, MD 21207

**TO:** The Honorable Paul Pinsky  
Chairman, Finance Committee

**FROM:** LeadingAge Maryland

**SUBJECT:** Senate Bill 13, Certified Nursing Assistants – Certificate Renewal – Training Program Requirements

**DATE:** January 26, 2021

**POSITION: Favorable**

LeadingAge Maryland supports Senate Bill 13, Certified Nursing Assistants – Certificate Renewal – Training Program Requirements.

LeadingAge Maryland is a community of not-for-profit aging services organizations serving residents and clients through continuing care retirement communities, affordable senior housing, assisted living, nursing homes and home and community-based services. We represent more than 120 not-for-profit organizations, including the vast majority of CCRCs in Maryland. Our mission is to expand the world of possibilities for aging in Maryland. We partner with consumers, caregivers, researchers, faith communities and others who care about aging in Maryland.

Under Senate Bill 13, the State Board of Nursing must adopt regulations to specify the circumstances under which a nursing assistant, as a condition of renewal, is required to complete either an approved nursing assistant training program or an approved nursing assistant refresher training program and the number of didactic instruction hours and clinical training hours the nursing assistant training program or nursing assistant refresher training program must have to be approved.

Hiring a nursing assistant can take 80+ days – plus orientation and community training. Eliminating barriers to license renewal is critical, especially when an applicant is unable to renew based on community or personal situations connected to an outbreak, natural disaster or

access to resources/class/work. In certain situations, renewal of a license can take too long and be at the mercy of the renewal board and the ability to connect/respond.

LeadingAge Maryland supports this bill in an effort to allow qualified certified nurse assistants to continue to support healthcare needs while actively trying to renew their license.

For these reasons, LeadingAge Maryland respectfully requests a favorable report for Senate Bill 13.

For additional information, please contact Aaron J. Greenfield, 410.446.1992



**SB0013\_FAV\_LifeSpan, MAADS, HPCNM, MNCHA\_CNAs-Cert**

Uploaded by: Kauffman, Danna

Position: FAV



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:**

Danna L. Kauffman  
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
410-244-7000

# **Senate Bill 0013 -Certified Nursing Assistants-Cer**

Uploaded by: Matthews, Dakota

Position: FAV



John Hartline, Chairman

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Charlotte Davis, Executive Director

Testimony in Support of  
**Senate Bill 0013 – Certified Nursing Assistants – Certificate Renewal – Training Program Requirements**  
Before Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee  
January 21, 2021

The Rural Maryland Council **supports** Senate Bill 0013 - Certified Nursing Assistants – Certificate Renewal – Training Program Requirements. The purpose of this bill is to allow for Certified Nursing Assistants to renew their certification more easily by providing certain evidence of completion of a nursing assistant training program or a refresher training program if the nursing assistant did not complete 16 hours of required active practice. The State Board of Nursing will develop the programs and be responsible to adopt certain regulations.

Rural Maryland currently experiences a shortage of health care providers particularly in specialty areas, mental health and dental care. Moreover, rural populations are also overall older and in worst health than their suburban counterparts. RMC supports efforts to streamline processes in order to get more health care providers out into our rural communities.

The Council respectfully requests your favorable support of SB0013.

*The Rural Maryland Council (RMC) is an independent state agency governed by a nonpartisan, 40-member board that consists of inclusive representation from the federal, state, regional, county, and municipal governments, as well as the for-profit and nonprofit sectors. We bring together federal, state, county, and municipal government officials as well as representatives of the for-profit and nonprofit sectors to identify challenges unique to rural communities and to craft public policy, programmatic or regulatory solutions.*

“A Collective Voice for Rural Maryland”