



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
HOUSE HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

March 11, 2021

House Bill 1193: 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 House Bill 1193. 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.

House Bill 1193 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. House Bill 1193 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 House Bill 1193.

Submitted by:

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