



SENT VIA EMAIL

January 28, 2022

The Honorable Ariana Kelly
Chair, Health Occupations and Long-Term Care Subcommittee
Health and Government Operations Committee
425 Lowe House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Kelly:

I am writing to apologize and to make you and the committee aware that the Health Facilities Association of Maryland (HFAM) made an editing and submission error on the testimony for House Bill 218, "Health Occupations - Nursing - Dialysis Technicians." Our submitted testimony is unfavorable, when in fact, we actually support HB 218.

House Bill 218 will provide very important public policy and regulatory approaches to ease the current workforce crisis.

Across healthcare settings in Maryland and throughout the country, we are fighting this most recent surge of the COVID-19 pandemic with fewer people working in healthcare, and particularly fewer people working in skilled nursing and rehabilitation centers.

Workforce recruitment and retention was a challenge before the pandemic and it has only grown more challenging over the last two years. Tens of thousands of healthcare workers in Maryland have left the field since the start of the pandemic. Licensed healthcare professionals are scarce and all healthcare settings are competing for employees from the same labor pool.

Dialysis centers are a critically important part of Maryland's public health network. Dozens of skilled nursing and rehabilitation centers in Maryland house and operate such centers. They serve residents, patients, and members of the community at large. The entire network of these centers in Maryland and their employees are to be commended for their lifesaving work.

For all these reasons HFAM supports HB 218 and kindly requests a favorable report from the Committee. Again, I apologize for the editing and submission error.



HFAM Letter to Chair Kelly

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Thank you, we look forward to our continued work together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe DeMattos". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a smaller "D" and "M" following.

Joe DeMattos
President and CEO

CC: Members of the Health Occupations and Long-Term Care Subcommittee
The Honorable Shane Pendergrass, Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Joseline Peña-Melnyk, Vice Chair, Health and Government Operations
Committee
Ashlie Bagwell, Harris, Jones, and Malone
Danna Kauffman, Schwartz, Metz, and Wise
Hope Morris, Health Facilities Association of Maryland