



Managed by LifeSpan



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: February 1, 2022

RE: **OPPOSE** – Senate Bill 82 – *Certified Nursing Assistants – Licensing Requirements*

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On behalf of the LifeSpan Network, the Maryland Association of Adult Day Services, the Maryland-National Capital Homecare Association, and the Hospice and Palliative Care Network of Maryland, we respectfully **oppose** Senate Bill 82. This bill seeks to increase the baseline standards for certified nursing assistants (CNA) by requiring them to meet the requirements for a geriatric nursing assistant (GNA).

Currently, under Maryland law, a nursing assistant must complete a Board-approved education. The CNA classification is the baseline nursing assistant course and allows individuals to work in many settings, including hospice, medical adult day care, home care, assisted living, and hospitals. There are several advanced designations that build on the CNA classification and are mainly industry specific, including GNA; home health aide; certified medicine aide, and dialysis technician. In Maryland, to work in a nursing facility, a CNA must also meet the requirements for a GNA, which includes additional training hours and a specific national examination.

As you know, Maryland is facing a critical health care worker shortage. This shortage is affecting all industries. Typically, CNAs are lower paid employees and often work in settings that rely on reimbursement by Medicare and Medicaid. Consequently, many health care organizations are competing with retail and food establishments that can pay higher wages to attract workers. Now is not the time to increase requirements for health care workers, which will have both a cost implication and a time implication for those individuals. Maryland must focus on initiatives that attract new workers and stabilize the workforce. Therefore, we respectfully request an unfavorable vote.

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