



SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

TESTIMONY

Submitted by Dr. Brad Phillips, Executive Director

February 10, 2022

SB 440 – Commission to Study the Health Care Workforce Crisis in Maryland – Establishment

POSITION: Favorable with Amendment

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges, representing Maryland’s 16 public two-year institutions of postsecondary education, support this legislation and thank Senator Beidle for supporting an amendment that would include a representative of Maryland’s 16 community colleges on the Commission.

Maryland’s community colleges are the state’s largest providers of training for numerous health care professions including nurses (LPN, ADN and CNA), paramedics, emergency management personnel, respiratory therapy and radiologists. In addition, community colleges have a long history of working with the healthcare professions to provide the training for the skills needed to support the health care professions. These programs are often overlooked as workforce shortages but have a substantial impact on the ability to increase the proficiency of health care workers. These courses provide the training for workers as laboratory technicians, medical coding, medical transcription, and numerous short term specialized training that may serve a specific population, such as generic nursing, clinical assistants, and mental health aids.

We are pleased to share the years of knowledge and experience of our institutions in expanding and enhancing health care programs to better serve the needs of the State.

To effectively represent all 16 of Maryland’s community colleges on the Commission, we ask the amendment read as follows:

(b) The Commission consists of the following members:

ADD NEW NUMBER: **“THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES, OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S DESIGNEE.”**