

Testimony of Joshua Harrold, Regional Director 1199SEIU Training and Upgrading Fund
Md/DC on
SB 696 Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment for Nurses and Nursing Workers –
Program Establishment and Funding Act
Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairman [Paul G. Pinsky](#), and Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs Committee,

Pursuing education in the nursing field has become a necessity for RNs (registered nurses) to maintain a career in the field. We know that there are severe shortages for professionals in the field. We have been hearing about these shortages for the last several years. When we look at what it costs for an individual to pursue degrees in nursing, we find that this venture is expensive. At the 1199SEIU Training and Upgrading Fund we support our members to pursue these advanced degrees. One of the ways that we assist members is through a Tuition Assistance Program. This program is a great asset, but in the Maryland/DC region it only covers a small piece of the tuition, \$3750 per year. When you learn that these degree programs can cost over \$57,000 to earn a bachelor's in nursing and over \$20,000 for those RNs that want to move into leadership roles with a graduate degree in nursing you see that our program is just a small piece. This underscores the need for the MD Loan Assistance Repayment Program. The Loan Assistance Repayment Program would be effective at assisting healthcare professionals to reach their occupational goals along with providing the healthcare employers and patients with skilled professionals to provide premium care.

For these reasons, we **SUPPORT SB 696** and ask for a **FAVORABLE** report.

Best Regards,

Joshua Harrold