



POSITION STATEMENT

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL 407 – HEALTH OCCUPATIONS - HEALTH CARE STAFFING SHORTAGE EMERGENCY - DECLARATION AND LICENSING AND PRACTICE REQUIREMENTS (HEALTH CARE HEROES ACT OF 2022)

Sponsor – The President (By Request – Administration, et al)

February 9, 2022

DONALD C. FRY
PRESIDENT & CEO
GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

Position: Support

Senate Bill 407 would authorize the Secretary of Health to declare a health care staffing shortage emergency in the State which would trigger a process of expedited licensing in designated health care areas. Those eligible to receive expedited licensing would include current applicants, those licensed in other states, those with inactive licenses, retired health care providers, and nursing graduates. An emergency declaration of a health care staffing shortage would be limited to 180 days.

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) recognizes the challenges faced by health care providers over the last two years of the COVID-19 pandemic. The scope of the pandemic has increased the need for licensed health care staffing as the current available number of licensed providers is falling. Senate Bill 407 provides, in a staffing shortage emergency, a way to increase the number of licensed providers without sacrificing quality or safety.

This bill is consistent with one of the key tenets in *Gaining A Competitive Edge: Keys to Economic Growth and Job Creation in Maryland*, a report published by the GBC that identifies eight core pillars for a competitive business environment and job growth. The pillar provides:

Government leadership that unites with business as a partner. Maryland leaders must set a welcoming tone that communicates positive support for business, respect for the private sector as a partner, not an adversary, and reflects a strategic plan for business growth and job creation.

For these reasons, the Greater Baltimore Committee urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 407.

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) is a non-partisan, independent, regional business advocacy organization comprised of hundreds of businesses -- large, medium and small -- educational institutions, nonprofit organizations and foundations located in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties as well as Baltimore City. The GBC is a 67-year-old, private-sector membership organization with a rich legacy of working with government to find solutions to problems that negatively affect our competitiveness and viability.

GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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