



SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE  
TESTIMONY

Submitted by Dr. Brad Phillips, Executive Director

February 24, 2022

**SB 518 - -Career Pathways for Health Care Workers Program**  
**POSITION: Support**

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The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 public two-year institutions of postsecondary education, offers our support for SB 518 and thanks the sponsor for introducing a program that can address the current health care crisis in Maryland. This legislation creates a matching grant for employers of health care workers to pay for employee training programs. The grant calls for a minimum \$1M annual appropriation to be distributed by the Department of Labor's Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning to eligible employers.

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, radiologists and more. In addition, we have a long history of providing short-term training programs to support healthcare professions such as laboratory technicians, medical assistants, personal caregivers, geriatric aids, clinical assistants, and mental health aids. These programs are often the first step for employees choosing to enter a career pathway in the healthcare industry. Community colleges also have the experience of working with their local area businesses and industries to customize employer-specific training programs.

Our institutions are ready to help employers fill their healthcare workforce rosters and ask that the Committee give this legislation a favorable report.