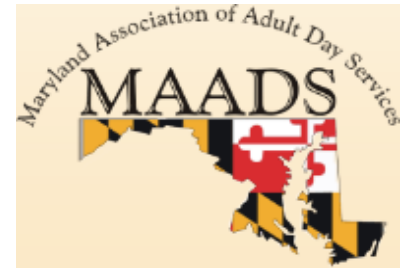




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TO: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair  
Members, Senate Finance Committee  
The Hogan-Rutherford Administration

FROM: Danna L. Kauffman  
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer

DATE: February 9, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – Senate Bill 407 – *Health Occupations – Health Care Staffing Shortage Emergency – Declaration and Licensing and Practice Requirements (Health Care Heroes Act of 2022)*

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On behalf of the LifeSpan Network, the largest and most diverse senior care provider association in Maryland, and the Maryland Association of Adult Day Services (MAADS), we **support with amendments** Senate Bill 407. Senate Bill 407 authorizes the Secretary of Health to declare a health care staffing shortage emergency in the State for no longer than 180 days. In so doing, Senate Bill 407 allows the Secretary to direct the health occupation boards to implement an expedited licensing process to allow categories of health care practitioners to work in designated health care facilities.

Given the complexity of issuing a catastrophic public health emergency and the limitations in statute (e.g., only permitted for thirty days and then must be reissued), LifeSpan and MAADS believe that affording the Secretary of Health this authority will allow the State to more quickly respond to staffing issues, like the one experienced during the omicron variant surge of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The amendments supported by LifeSpan and MAADS are those being put forth by the Administration. These amendments include expanding the entities defined as a “health care facility” to include a medical adult day center, a residential service agency, and a hospice program. Each of these settings have experienced severe staffing shortages over the last two years. In addition, LifeSpan and MAADS support aligning the bill with the latest Secretary’s order that expanded beyond a registered nurse those that could work following a successful completion of a training program as well as providing the Boards greater discretion on how to expedite licensure. We urge a favorable vote with the Administration’s amendments.

**For more information call:**

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