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DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Health and Government
Operations Committee

Subcommittees

Chair, Health Occupations
and Long Term Care

Insurance and Pharmaceuticals

House Chair, Joint Committee on
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**HB 1241- Health Occupations - Nursing Home Administrator - Qualifications
March 3, 2021**

Chair Pendergrass, Vice Chair Peña-Melnyk and Members of the Committee

Thank you for allowing me to present HB 1241 which is another effort to address healthcare workforce issues in Maryland.

Like many of our healthcare providers, our nursing homes face significant workforce shortages across all levels of employees. This bill is focused on the particular problems associated with recruiting nursing home administrators. With a turnover rate as high as 48%, Maryland's nursing homes face a continuous need for new administrators. Compounding this problem is the fact that Maryland has some of the most rigid nursing home administrator licensure requirements in the country.

In Maryland, regardless of area of study or licensure in another state, individuals seeking to obtain an Administrator license in Maryland are required to undergo a 12-month full time Administrator in Training (AIT) Program prior to being able to sit for the Maryland exam. For example, a recent college graduate from UMBC or Towson with a degree in healthcare administration would be required to train full time for an entire year (totaling 2080 hours) before being permitted to sit for the exam to become a nursing home administrator. The required training in neighboring states is much less for an applicant with a health-related degree.

HB 1241 would bring Maryland nursing home administrator licenses more in line with other states in the region while still requiring education, training, and experience that would prepare administrators for the complex role of running a long-term care facility. Additionally, this bill will establish standards for nursing home administrators licensed in other states to work in Maryland.

By giving credit for concentrated and relevant work in the field and recognizing other states licenses, HB 1241 enlarges the potential pool of applicants for this position without sacrificing the high standards Maryland requires of its healthcare licensees.

I urge a favorable report.