



Board of Nursing

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Secretary

March 31, 2022

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: SB 518 – Career Pathways for Health Care Workers Program – Letter of Support

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Nursing (the Board) respectfully submits this letter of support for Senate Bill (SB) 518 – Career Pathways for Health Care Workers Program. This bill establishes the Career Pathways for Health Care Workers Program in the Maryland Department of Labor for the purpose of providing grants to eligible employers for training programs attended by health care workers.

The Board is in favor of providing increased opportunities for health care workers to receive training across the state of Maryland. The costs related to attending a training program can often deter and prevent individuals from entering the healthcare field, pursuing higher education in nursing, or building skills of interest. SB 518 provides a secure and stable funding source that empowers employees to take advantage of an opportunity to progress in their careers. The Board strongly supports implementing an avenue for health care workers to receive training, at no cost, in the different disciplines of nursing. It is imperative, in times of the nursing workforce shortage, to not only attract individuals to the healthcare field but also offer current healthcare practitioners a chance to explore clinical career ladders.

For the reasons discussed above, the Maryland Board of Nursing respectfully submits this letter of support for SB 518.

I hope this information is useful. For more information, please contact Iman Farid, Health Policy Analyst, at (410) 585 – 1536 (iman.farid@maryland.gov) or Rhonda Scott, Deputy Director, at (410) 585 – 1953 (rhonda.scott2@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

Gary N. Hicks
Board President

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.