



Statement of Maryland Rural Health Association

To the House Health and Government Operations Committee

March 3, 2022

House Bill 1208 Health Occupations - Health Care Workforce Expansion

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chairman Pendergrass, Vice Chair Peña-Melnyk, and members of the Committee, the Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA) is in SUPPORT of House Bill 1208, Health Care Workforce Expansion.

MRHA supports this legislation that expands the workforce in nursing-related fields through new State Board of Nursing requirements, establishing tax credits, and convening a stakeholder workgroup to study expanding apprenticeship programs.

Health care staffing shortages are particularly pronounced in Maryland's rural communities. MRAH's top legislative priority this year is to support initiatives that respond to rural health care workforce needs, critical shortages and future pipelines.

MHRA believes this legislation is important to support our rural communities and we urge a favorable report.

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