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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 218 - Health Occupations - Nursing - Dialysis Technicians

February 1, 2022

Thank you Madam Chair, Madam Vice Chair and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present HB 218 which is a minor change to Maryland health occupations statutes that will help to ease the workforce shortage faced by dialysis centers operating in the state.

During discussions with various health care organizations to determine how to address the critical workforce shortages that are currently affecting care delivery, I became aware of the challenges faced by dialysis centers to hire individuals and then train them to be both CNAs and dialysis technicians. I also learned that Maryland is the only state that requires dialysis technicians to be certified nursing assistants.

House Bill 218 removes the requirement that dialysis technicians must be certified as a nursing assistant. In doing so, Maryland aligns with other states and maintains the requirement that, in order to practice as a dialysis technician, individuals will need to complete an approved dialysis training program and receive national certification.

Given the limited scope of duties performed by dialysis technicians, removing this dual certification will not impact the quality of care and will, in fact, strengthen quality by increasing the labor pool and providing an additional avenue for individuals to enter the healthcare workforce. The Maryland Kidney Commission agrees and is in support of this legislation.

We face an unprecedented demand for workers across all sectors of healthcare. This bill takes a small but important step that will help dialysis centers boost their workforce and provide the life-saving services our constituents need.

Thank you and I urge a favorable report.