



*Keeping You Connected...Expanding Your Potential...
In Senior Care and Services*

TO: The Honorable Melony Griffith, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Jim Rosapepe

FROM: Danna L. Kauffman
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DATE: February 23, 2023

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 413 – *Apprenticeship 2030 Commission*

On behalf of the LifeSpan Network, the largest and most diverse senior care provider association in Maryland representing nursing facilities, assisted living providers, continuing care retirement communities, medical adult day care centers, senior housing communities and other home and community-based services, we **support** Senate Bill 413, which establishes an Apprentice Commission. The purpose of the Commission is to examine and make recommendations to reduce skill shortages in high-demand occupations and provide affordable training for career pathways for young people by (1) expanding registered apprenticeships in industry sectors with skill shortages; (2) growing the number of registered apprenticeships to at least 80,000 in 2030; and (3) reaching the Blueprint for Maryland's Future goal of 45% for high school graduates completing the high school level of a registered apprenticeship.

As has been stated numerous times, the health care industry is facing a workforce crisis that will impact future care delivery. If this bill passes, we encourage it to coordinate with the Commission to Study the Health Care Workforce Crisis in Maryland. In addition, we believe that there should be representation of the health care industry separate from and in addition to the designation by the union organization as referenced in the bill. Thus, we urge a favorable vote.