



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE**
February 23, 2023
Senate Bill 413: Apprenticeship 2030 Commission
Written Only Testimony

POSITION: FAVORABLE

On behalf of the members of the Health Facilities Association of Maryland (HFAM), we appreciate the opportunity to express our support for Senate Bill 413. HFAM represents skilled nursing centers and assisted living communities in Maryland, as well as associate businesses that offer products and services to healthcare providers. Our members provide services and employ individuals in nearly every jurisdiction of the state.

Senate Bill 413 establishes the Apprenticeship 2030 Commission to examine and make recommendations to expand access to apprenticeships to reduce skill shortages in high-demand occupations and provide affordable training for career pathways for young people to participate in apprenticeships.

Many industries today, especially healthcare, face the greatest shortage and the most tremendous opportunity in workforce development in a generation. To meet this opportunity and succeed, we must deploy new tools and create innovative public-private partnerships.

Workforce recruitment and retention challenges have long existed in healthcare, even before the COVID-19 pandemic. These challenges have only grown worse over the last several years and they will remain as we navigate a post-pandemic world. This legislation will help reduce skill shortages in high-demand occupations by creating new career pathways, removing barriers to entry, and providing affordable training programs.

In healthcare, we are placing considerable attention on how on-the-job training, apprenticeship programs, trade studies, and traditional post-secondary education can be overlapped to produce more qualified professionals across the care continuum.

There is tremendous potential for young people in Maryland to engage in apprenticeships that result in rewarding careers. This legislation advances our public policy work to that end.

For these reasons, we request a favorable report from the Committee on Senate Bill 413.

Submitted by:

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