

March 22, 2023

To: The Honorable Melony G. Griffith, Chair, Senate Finance Committee

Re: Letter of Support as Amended - House Bill 507 - State Board of Physicians - Supervised Medical Graduates

Dear Chair Griffith:

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) 60 member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of House Bill 507 as amended.

In light of the growing health care workforce shortages, in the fall of 2021, MHA's governing body launched a Workforce Task Force. Hospital leaders, human resources experts, and clinicians from across Maryland joined together to determine how to grow and diversify Maryland's hospital workforce pipeline.

Last year, the Task Force released MHA's 2022 State of Maryland's Health Care Workforce report, which outlines a roadmap to ensure Maryland has the health care workforce it needs now and into the future. One recommendation is for Maryland to create additional pathways for community members to join the health care workforce.

HB 507 would support this goal by creating opportunities for medical school graduates through a regulatory framework developed by the Maryland Board of Physicians. Medical school graduates who are not placed in a medical residency would qualify. This would allow them to work under the supervision of a licensed physician.

Maryland hospitals are at a critical juncture—facing the most significant staffing shortage in recent memory. As such, we need to leverage every available resource, including medical school graduates, to support our health care workforce.

For these reasons, we respectfully request a *favorable* report on HB 507 as amended.

For more information, please contact: Jake Whitaker, Director, Government Affairs Jwhitaker@mhaonline.org