Maryland Hospital Association

February 22, 2023

To: The Honorable Joseline Peña-Melnyk, Chair, House Health & Government Operations Committee

Re: Letter of Support- House Bill 507- State Board of Physicians – Graduate Registered Physicians – Licensure

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk:

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.

In response to unprecedented workforce stresses prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic, MHA's governing body launched a Workforce Task Force in 2021. Hospital leaders, human resources experts, and clinicians from across Maryland joined together to focus on 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 of the recommendations is for Maryland to create additional pathways for community members to join the health care workforce.

This goal is supported by HB 507, which would create a new pathway for individuals to join the health care workforce by establishing the regulatory framework for a new license, issued by the Maryland Board of Physicians, for graduate registered physicians. Medical school graduates who are not placed in a medical residency would qualify for this license. Graduate registered physicians would care for patients under the supervision of a licensed physician, including prescribing and administering medications and ordering diagnostic and therapeutic medical services.

Maryland hospitals are at a critical juncture—facing the most significant staffing shortage in recent memory. This bill will improve the availability of health care professionals and services, to improve outcomes and provide Marylanders with the best care possible.

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

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