

February 7, 2023

The Honorable Joseline Pena-Melnyk  
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee  
House Office Building, Room 241  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk:

As the Chief Nursing Officers serving Luminis Health's two general acute care hospitals—Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center and Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center—we are pleased to express strong support for **House Bill 611—State Board of Nursing-Sunset Extension, Licensure Exceptions, and Board Operations and Membership**. House Bill 611 will provide greatly needed solutions to reduce the barriers to obtain licensure through the Maryland Board of Nursing (the "Board").

Now more than ever it is clear that Maryland's nurses, nurse assistants, midwives, patient care technicians and electrologists ("Board Licensees") personify selfless professionalism and a steadfast commitment to furthering the health and wellness of patients throughout Maryland. The challenges Board Licensees face on a near daily basis are real. Study after study shows that patients are sicker and a career in health care presents a more complex value proposition now than in earlier generations. These and other factors have led to a shortage of nurses and care givers. As nursing executives, we are honored to team with our colleagues and stakeholders throughout the health care sector to address these trends.

House Bill 611 will provide solutions to get nurses and other board licensees licensed to work in Maryland faster. Board Licensees (and their employers) are unable to obtain timely guidance regarding Board policies, procedures, and licensure scope. At the same time, Maryland hospitals face the most critical staffing shortage of our careers. These multi-faceted delays and the workforce shortage issues are hand in glove. As we understand House Bill 611, it will help by temporarily transferring authority over the Board's infrastructure operations to the Maryland Department of Health. We are also encouraged by House Bill 611's requirement for the Board to prioritize resolution of its infrastructure needs. Finally, we support the provision to allow certain nurse graduates to practice registered nursing or licensed practical nursing while the individual is preparing to re-take the national licensure exam.

In our current environment when we are all transitioning from a pandemic to post-pandemic world, smart reform of Maryland's health care delivery model is vital. We believe House Bill 611 is exactly that and we support its passage.

Sincerely,



Crystal Beckford, RN  
Chief Nursing Officer  
Luminis Health  
Doctors Community Medical Center



Christine Frost, RN  
Chief Nursing Officer  
Luminis Health  
Anne Arundel Medical Center