



Maryland
Hospital Association

February 22, 2023

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

Re: Letter of Support- House Bill 453- State Board of Physicians - Inactive and Emeritus Status

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 453.

Maryland hospitals are at a critical juncture—facing the most significant staffing shortage in recent memory. According to the Association of Medical Colleges, the physician shortage is expected to grow nationally ranging from 37,800 to 124,000 by 2034.¹ Maryland has a shortage of primary care physicians, especially in rural and underserved parts of the state.² In 2021, hospital leaders, human resources experts, and clinicians from across Maryland joined together to focus on how to grow and diversify the hospital workforce pipeline. The Task Force released the [2022 State of Maryland's Health Care Workforce report](#), which provides a roadmap to ensure Maryland has the health care workforce it needs now and into the future

A key component of growing the pipeline is understanding how many practicing health care providers are in the state. One recommendation in MHA's report is to designate a state entity responsible for multi-agency coordination of data driven policy change and programs to ensure Maryland has the health workforce necessary for the future. The lack of a central repository for data on Maryland's health care workforce is a challenge that has been discussed in the [Commission to Study the Health Care Workforce Crisis](#).

HB 453 offers several tools to support the physician workforce. First, the bill would help track physicians who are retiring by allowing for emeritus status to be identified on their license. This can help the state with workforce planning. In addition, during a public health emergency, this would identify physicians who might be able to rejoin the workforce temporarily. This legislation would help the state plan for the workforce we need to meet the demand.

For these reasons, we ask for a *favorable* report on HB 453.

For more information, please contact:

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¹Association of American Medical Colleges. (June 11, 2021). "[AAMC Report Reinforces Mounting Physician Shortage](#)."

² Education and Pathways Advisory Group for the Commission to Study the Health Care Workforce Crisis in Maryland. (November 2, 2022). "[Primary Care for the Underserved](#)."