



TO: The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
Chair, Senate Finance Committee (Maryland Department of Health)

FROM: Danna L. Kauffman
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DATE: January 30, 2024

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 221 – *Health Occupations Boards – Reciprocal Licensure and Certification*

On behalf of the LifeSpan Network, the Maryland Association of Adult Day Services, the Maryland-National Capital Homecare Association, and the Hospice & Palliative Care Network of Maryland, we submit this joint letter of **support** for Senate Bil 221.

Senate Bill 221 is a departmental bill from the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) that authorizes any health occupations board (that does not otherwise have statutory authority to do so) to adopt regulations establishing reciprocity for individuals who are licensed or certified in another State or jurisdiction that also offers similar reciprocity to individuals licensed or certified by the board.

MDH advises that licensure by reciprocity for health care professionals in surrounding states and jurisdictions is needed (1) due to the proximity and corresponding geographical relationship of nearby jurisdictions; (2) to improve access to care and treatment, particularly for rural State residents; and (3) to address current health care workforce challenges. The above-referenced organizations agree with this rationale. Demand for health care workers continues to outpace supply. Senate Bill 221 is a common-sense approach to provide more fluidity to Maryland's workforce and allow health care facilities to attract out-of-state workers, especially in areas that border other states. Therefore, the above organizations respectfully request a favorable report.