



TO: The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair  
Members, Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Harry Bhandari

FROM: Danna L. Kauffman  
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer

DATE: March 21, 2024

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 959 – *Health Occupations – Certified Dialysis Technicians – Continuing Education Requirement*

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DaVita is a leading provider of kidney care in the United States. DaVita provides dialysis services to patients with chronic kidney failure and end stage renal disease. DaVita operates or provides administrative services at 2,830 outpatient dialysis centers located in the United States, serving approximately 209,169 patients. In Maryland, DaVita operates 83 dialysis centers where 1,985 teammates provide care for 6,983 patients. DaVita strongly **supports** the passage of House Bill 959.

The bill makes a clarifying change to the continuing education requirement by changing the requirement to three hours of continuing education, rather than one three-hour course. Currently, there is not a three-hour course available. By making this simple change, an individual will be able to access more relevant and diverse educational opportunities that align with their professional development needs. The bill also includes a June 1, 2024, effective date.

During the 2022 Session, the General Assembly passed legislation (House Bill 218) that removed the requirement that an individual be certified as a nursing assistant in order to receive certification as a dialysis technician, aligning Maryland with all other states. Given the health care workforce shortage crisis, it is vital that certified nursing assistants focus on employment where their skills are most needed and not where they are not. House Bill 959, while a seemingly small change, will assist in expediting the promulgation of the regulations necessary to finally enact House Bill 218 from the 2022 Session.

**For more information call:**

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