



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
HOUSE HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

March 19, 2024

Senate Bill 374: State Emergency Medical Services Board - Licenses and Certificates - Application Requirements
Written Testimony Only

POSITION: FAVORABLE

On behalf of the members of the Health Facilities Association of Maryland (HFAM), we appreciate the opportunity to express our support for Senate Bill 374.

HFAM represents skilled nursing centers and assisted living communities in Maryland, as well as associate businesses that offer products and services to healthcare providers. Our members provide services and employ individuals in nearly every jurisdiction of the state. HFAM is affiliated with the American Health Care Association/National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL), which is the largest association in the United States representing long-term and post-acute care providers.

Senate Bill 374 is for the purpose of prohibiting the State Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Board from requiring an applicant to provide proof that the applicant is lawfully present in the United States or have a Social Security number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number as a condition for licensure or certification; and requiring the EMS Board to require applicants for a license or certificate to disclose certain information or provide alternative documentation and record the information in the applicant's file for a certain purpose.

In Maryland and throughout the country, we are facing a shortage of healthcare workers across settings. Workforce recruitment and retention was a challenge before the pandemic and it has only grown more challenging. Tens of thousands of healthcare workers in Maryland have left the field over the last few years. Licensed healthcare professionals are scarce and all healthcare settings are competing for employees from the same labor pool.

We need all the caring hearts and trained hands we can get in healthcare. Together going forward, we must be intentional about creating healthcare jobs and growing careers, with a specific focus on underserved communities. This legislation will help expand our labor pool for much-needed EMS providers.

For these reasons, we request a favorable report from the Committee on Senate Bill 374.

Submitted by:

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