



TO: The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Harry Bhandari

FROM: Danna L. Kauffman
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer

DATE: February 27, 2024

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

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 **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.

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 (DT), 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. We continue to work with the Maryland Board of Nursing to expedite the promulgation of the regulations.

For more information call:

Danna L. Kauffman
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
410-244-7000