



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

February 13, 2024

Senate Bill 359: Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact

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 359.

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 359 enters Maryland into the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact. The bill establishes specified procedures and requirements for an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) to practice under a "multistate license" in a "party state" or "remote state;" the composition, powers, and responsibilities of the Interstate Commission of APRN Compact Administrators; and requirements related to the oversight, dispute resolution, and enforcement of the compact. The bill is contingent on similar legislation being enacted in six other states.

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.

This legislation will expand our labor pool for advance practice registered nurses, ensuring that care can be more easily delivered across state lines while promoting both safety and quality. The enactment of this legislation will enhance access to care for people and families across Maryland and help to alleviate healthcare workforce shortages.

For these reasons, we request a favorable report from the Committee on Senate Bill 359.

Submitted by:

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