



Board of Nursing

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

January 28th, 2025

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 0019 – Health Occupations - Nursing - Loan Repayment, Education, and Sunset Extension (Building Opportunities for Nurses Act of 2025)

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Nursing (the Board) respectfully submits this letter of support for House Bill Health Occupations - Nursing - Loan Repayment, Education, and Sunset Extension (Building Opportunities for Nurses Act of 2025).

This bill will extend the sunset provision of the Board five years, from June of this year to June 2030. The board is proud of the work they have done to this point, and welcomes the opportunity to continue serving the nurses of our state for another five years. In addition to extending the sunset, this bill also extends the Secretary of Health's authority over the infrastructure operations of the Board, a key factor in improving the quality of service we are able to provide going forward.

As this committee well knows, we face a nursing shortage in this state. This bill will help bridge this staffing gap and ensure that every Marylander receives the care they need through two provisions. First, the bill will alter the Loan Assistance Repayment Program (LARP) so that it may repay the loans of nurses who agree to work in unserved areas of our state. With the rising costs of education this will attract nurses not just to our state, but to the areas where they are most needed. Secondly, the bill alters the qualifications under which a nurse may receive an endorsement to work in the state, making it simpler to work in Maryland while maintaining the rigorous standards by which we ensure patients are receiving the best care possible.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill. Once again, we ask for the Committee's full support of HB0019. For more information, please contact Ms. Mitzi Fishman, Director of Legislative Affairs, at 410-585-2049 or mitzi.fishman@maryland.gov, or Ms. Rhonda Scott, Executive Director, at 410-585-1953 or rhonda.scott2@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,



Christine Lechliter
Board President

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