



Maryland
Hospital Association

**House Bill 496 - Income Tax - Credits for Nursing Program Preceptors in Areas With
Health Care Workforce Shortages - Alterations**

Position: *Support*

February 6, 2025

House Ways & Means Committee

MHA Position

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of House Bill 496.

Registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and nursing assistants make up 42% of Maryland's hospital workforce. The latest hospital data from Q3 2024 shows licensed practical nurses, nursing assistants, and registered nurses have high vacancy rates—28%, 17%, and 15%, respectively. These vacancies mean fewer caregivers are available to deliver care at the bedside.

HB 496 extends the preceptor tax credit program and modifies the number of clinical rotation hours required from 100 to 90 to align with the clinical hour requirements of most nursing programs. There continues to be a shortage of preceptors to meet the demand, especially for nurse practitioner students. Addressing the shortage of preceptors is critical for growing the health care workforce pipeline.

Tax credits and loan repayment programs are important tools the state can leverage to recruit and retain Maryland's health care workforce. MHA supported the expansion of this preceptor tax credit in 2022 to include registered nurses and licensed practical nurses. HB 496 will continue the program and make this tax credit more accessible.

For these reasons, we request a favorable report on HB 496.

For more information, please contact:

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