

Board of Nursing

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

February 6th, 2025

The Honorable Vanessa Atterbeary Chair, Ways & Means Committee Room 130 House Office Building Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 496 – Income Tax - Credits for Nursing Program Preceptors in Areas With Health Care Workforce Shortages - Alterations

Dear Chair Atterbeary and Committee Members:

The Board of Nursing ("The Board") respectfully submits this letter of support for HB 496 – Income Tax - Credits for Nursing Program Preceptors in Areas With Health Care Workforce Shortages - Alterations. This bill will extend the preceptor program tax credit, and reduce the number of hours required to qualify.

Preceptorship is an important step in the education of our nurses, allowing them to get hands-on experience under the supervision of mentors who are currently working in the field and have the ability to impart knowledge students simply could not get in a classroom setting. As the credit is for unpaid preceptors only, the individuals the credit targets are offering their time and experience out of a sense of duty to those coming up behind them, and a drive to ensure excellent care for all patients. This tax credit both encourages more practitioners to join the program and rewards the service of those who are already participating. The Board fully supports the preceptor program and therefore fully supports this bill and the extension of the credit.

Thank you again for your time. For more information, please contact Ms. Mitzi Fishman, Director of Legislative Affairs, at 410-585-2049 or <u>mitzi.fishman@maryland.gov</u>, or Ms. Rhonda Scott, Executive Director, at 410-585-1953 or <u>rhonda.scott2@maryland.gov</u>.

Sincerely,

Clustrie Leclite

Christine Lechliter Board President

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.