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Legislative District 46
Baltimore City

Environment and Transportation
Committee
Chair, Land use and Ethics Subcommittee

House Chair
Joint Committee on Program Open Space
and Agricultural Land Preservation



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Sponsor Testimony in Support of HB 496
Income Tax - Credits for Nursing Program Preceptors
in Areas with Health Care Workforce Shortages - Alterations

Thank you, Chair Atterbeary, Vice-Chair Wilkins, and members of the Ways and Means Committee. I am Delegate Robbyn Lewis here on behalf of HB 496.

This is a health care workforce bill. Maryland faces a well-documented shortage of nurses, particularly in areas with the greatest health care workforce needs. HB 496 will increase the number of nurses working in Maryland by removing a significant supply-side obstacle: a shortage of nursing preceptors.

Preceptors are experienced, licensed nursing professionals who provide hands-on clinical training to nursing students. In Maryland, we do not have enough nursing preceptors, and as a result, we are not training enough nurses.

The bill before you will help close the nursing workforce gap with a simpler tax credit incentive for preceptors: HB 496 makes it easier to qualify for the nursing preceptor state income tax credit by reducing the number of mandatory training hours from 100 to 90 hours per clinical rotation.

This idea came from a constituent – they are often the best problem solvers. Theresa DiSeta, a nursing professional and resident of my district, recognized that current policies create a bottleneck in the nurse training pipeline. She championed this solution, working closely with me and other nursing and healthcare experts over many months to develop the bill before you.

Reducing required training hours from 100 to 90 will attract qualified, eligible nursing educators to become preceptors. More preceptors means more nurses being trained, qualified and ready to work in health care shortage areas in Maryland.

The bill also ensures accountability by requiring the Department of Health to report annually to the Comptroller on tax credit certificates issued and to the General Assembly on the utilization of the credit.

Thank you for your consideration and respectfully request a favorable report for HB 496.