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January 19, 2021

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: SB 262 – Department of Information Technology - Study of a Common Information Technology Platform for Health Occupations Boards – Letter of Support

Dear Chair Pinsky:

The Maryland Health Care Commission (the “MHCC”) is submitting this letter of support for SB 262 – Department of Information Technology - Study of a Common Information Technology Platform for Health Occupations Boards.

This bill requires the Department of Information Technology (DoIT), in consultation with the health occupations boards, to review the information technology (IT) platforms used by each board and make recommendations on the feasibility and cost of developing a common and standardized platform for use by each board, as specified.

The health occupation boards currently use a variety of systems and applications to license, relicense and monitor their licenses. Over the past decade, MHCC has worked with the Boards to standardize the software used for relicensing their licensees. Those efforts produced some benefit for the Boards and other state agencies.

The Boards could achieve greater efficiency if a common infrastructure were used. The potential savings including a reduction in software acquisitions as a common platform could be obtained more efficiently. Second, technology staff could be shared more efficiently as hard to hire information technology experts would have skills that could be shared among the boards. Third, a common platform could enable standardization of certain workforce questions that would be invaluable to the State and the private in addressing workforce needs across all health care occupations.

I hope this information is useful. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Ben Steffen, Executive Director, Maryland Health Care Commission at ben.steffen@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,



Ben Steffen
Executive Director