



576 Johnsville Road  
Sykesville, MD 21784

**TO:** Budget & Taxation  
**FROM:** LeadingAge Maryland  
**SUBJECT:** Senate Bill 716, Maryland Health Care Workers Loan Assistance Program -  
Establishment and Funding  
**DATE:** March 10, 2022  
**POSITION:** **Favorable**

LeadingAge Maryland supports Senate Bill 716, Maryland Health Care Workers Loan Assistance Program - Establishment and Funding.

LeadingAge Maryland is a community of more than 135 not-for-profit aging services organizations serving residents and clients through continuing care retirement communities, affordable senior housing, assisted living, nursing homes and home and community-based services. Our mission is to expand the world of possibilities for aging in Maryland. We partner with consumers, caregivers, researchers, public agencies, faith communities and others who care about aging in Maryland.

This bill establishes the Maryland Health Care Workers Loan Assistance Program to provide assistance to health care workers in repaying health care-related education loans and requires the Governor in fiscal years, 2024, 2025, and 2026, to include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$35,000,000 for the Fund

With a health care system strained by an aging population and expanded access to public health care, nurses play a central role. According to the American Nurses Association, by 2022, there will be far more registered nurse jobs available than any other profession, at more than 100,000 per year. With more than 500,000 seasoned RNs anticipated to retire by 2022, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects the need for 1.1 million new RNs for expansion and replacement of retirees, and to avoid a nursing shortage.

The Maryland Health Care Workers Loan Assistance Program, under Senate Bill 716, seeks to recruit and retain health care professionals to needed areas and facilities within Maryland. This is an important benefit for health care professionals as well as health care facilities and communities experiencing a shortage of access to primary health care services.

For these reasons, LeadingAge Maryland respectfully requests a favorable report for Senate Bill 716.

**For more information, please contact Aaron J. Greenfield, 410.446.1992**