



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
HOUSE HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

March 24, 2022

Senate Bill 230: Health Occupations - Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses -
Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting
Written Testimony Only

POSITION: Favorable

On behalf of the members of the Health Facilities Association of Maryland (HFAM), we appreciate the opportunity to express our support for Senate Bill 230. HFAM represents over 170 skilled nursing centers and assisted living communities in Maryland, as well as nearly 80 associate businesses that offer products and services to healthcare providers. Our members provide services and employ individuals in nearly every jurisdiction in the state.

Senate Bill 230 would require a health occupations board to issue a temporary license, certificate, registration, or permit to a service member, veteran, or military spouse who meets certain requirements and prohibits a board from issuing a temporary license, certificate, registration, or permit if it would pose a risk to public health, welfare, or safety.

We strongly support this legislation and commend the sponsor for bringing it forward. HFAM has a long commitment to advocating for and supporting public policies that recognize the value that service members, veterans, and military spouses bring to the civilian workforce. Years ago, we stood with then Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown and members of the General Assembly's Veterans Caucus to support veteran and military employment in our sector.

Senate Bill 230 could not come at a more critical time. Across healthcare settings in Maryland and throughout the country, we fought the most recent surge of the COVID-19 pandemic with fewer people working in healthcare, and particularly fewer people working in skilled nursing and rehabilitation centers. Workforce recruitment and retention was a challenge before the pandemic and it has only grown more challenging over the last two years. Tens of thousands of healthcare workers in Maryland have left the field since the start of the pandemic. Licensed healthcare professionals are scarce and all healthcare settings are competing for employees from the same labor pool.

Veterans and their partners have the potential to be a tremendous resource in the healthcare workforce crisis we currently face in Maryland. **For these reasons, we request a favorable report from the Committee on Senate Bill 230.**

Submitted by:

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