



**Committee:** Senate Finance Committee

**Bill:** Senate Bill 283 - Mental Health - Workforce Development - Fund Established

**Hearing Date:** February 7, 2023

**Position:** Support

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The Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) supports *Senate Bill 283- Mental Health – Workforce Development -Fund Established*. The bill creates a special fund to support initiatives to increase the number of behavioral health professionals. A stakeholder advisory committee would make recommendations on a range of strategies, which could include tuition assistance and support for clinical placements.

Nurses are part of the behavioral health team that includes licensed alcohol and drug counselors, licensed clinical social workers, psychiatrists, and licensed clinical professional counselors. Nurses support psychiatric patients at the bedside in acute care facilities, as well as provide treatment at the advanced practice registered nursing level. We would be honored to contribute to the work of the stakeholder advisory committee in considering options to address the crisis level shortage of behavioral health providers.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net) or (443) 926-3443.