



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE  
HOUSE ECONOMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE**

March 28, 2023

Senate Bill 104: Labor and Employment - Apprenticeship 2030 Commission and Representation on the  
Apprenticeship and Training Council

*Written Only Testimony*

**POSITION: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT**

On behalf of the members of the Health Facilities Association of Maryland (HFAM), we appreciate the opportunity to express our support with amendment for Senate Bill 104. HFAM represents skilled nursing centers and assisted living communities in Maryland, as well as associate businesses that offer products and services to healthcare providers. Our members provide services and employ individuals in nearly every jurisdiction of the state.

Senate Bill 104 requires that the Apprenticeship and Training Council and consultants to the Council include representation by individuals who are Asian, Black, and Latino; establishes the Apprenticeship 2030 Commission to examine and make recommendations to expand access to apprenticeships to reduce skill shortages in high-demand occupations and provide affordable training for career pathways for young people; and requires the Commission to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before December 1, 2023.

We understand that Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake, which is one of the three largest apprenticeship programs in Maryland, is seeking an amendment to Senate Bill 104 that would allow it and its fellow merit shop organizations to have the opportunity to serve on the Apprenticeship 2030 Commission. HFAM supports this proposed amendment.

Many industries today, especially healthcare, face the greatest shortage and the most tremendous opportunity in workforce development in a generation. To meet this opportunity and succeed, we must deploy new tools and create innovative public-private partnerships. This legislation will help reduce skill shortages in high-demand occupations by creating new career pathways, removing barriers to entry, and providing affordable training programs.

In healthcare, we are placing considerable attention on how on-the-job training, apprenticeship programs, trade studies, and traditional post-secondary education can be overlapped to produce more qualified professionals across the care continuum. There is tremendous potential for young people in Maryland to engage in apprenticeships that result in rewarding careers.

**For these reasons, and with this proposed amendment, we request a favorable report from the Committee on Senate Bill 104.**

*Submitted by:*

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