



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

March 14, 2023

Senate Bill 669: Registered Nurse Degree Apprenticeship Program Workgroup
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 669. HFAM represents skilled nursing centers and assisted living communities in Maryland, as well as associate businesses that offer products and services to healthcare providers.

Senate Bill 669 establishes the Registered Nurse Degree Apprenticeship Program Workgroup to study the feasibility of developing and implementing a registered nurse degree apprenticeship program in the State.

This legislation is important to finding solutions to staffing challenges and removing barriers to entry for those pursuing a career in nursing so that we can produce more licensed nursing professionals across the continuum. Together we have a tremendous opportunity to place resources that support nurses and alleviate the shortage of nursing professionals.

We respectfully request that SB 669 be amended to add the Health Facilities Association of Maryland (HFAM) to the Registered Nurse Degree Apprenticeship Program Workgroup. We believe that the expertise of leaders from our organization will add valuable insight from the lens of long-term and post-acute care providers.

Healthcare today, especially nursing across the continuum of care, faces 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.

As we plan our long-term “new normal” 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 licensed professionals across the care continuum. Just as there are incremental steps of professional development and job classification in traditional trade apprenticeship approaches, some of us in healthcare are looking at developing similar types of career ladders for our sector.

For these reasons, and with the proposed amendment, we request a favorable report from the Committee on Senate Bill 669.

Submitted by:
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